

**Unsavable People,
The Plan of God for Israel and the Nations Pt. 2
Romans 9:30-33**

Romans 9:30–10:4 (NKJV)

³⁰ What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; ³¹ but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. ³² Why? Because *they did not seek it* by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. ³³ As it is written:

*“Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense,
And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”*

10 Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the

righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Introduction:

The fundamental difference between Biblical Christianity and every other religion in the world is that Christianity teaches Salvation comes from Divine accomplishment and every other religion teaches salvation comes from human achievement.

Biblical Christianity teaches that salvation comes apart from human or religious works, it is all of grace. But the world's religions teach it is by works of religious nature or works of righteousness. Grace can be part of it but it is not all of it.

Biblical Christianity says that salvation is solely of the Lord with no mixture of human works. But all other religions teach that is man only or their god plus man's works.

What is ultimately behind the view of the world religions and man is that righteousness or acceptance by their god can be achieved by human effort. That we can become good enough that our god will accept us. Man, in their view is basically good or at least capable of the righteousness required.

This is the polar opposite of Biblical Christianity that teaches that man is not good and is not capable of being good enough or doing good that is acceptable in God's sight. He is thoroughly and extensively affected by sin and fallenness. He is not always as evil and sinful as he can be but he is never good enough or righteous enough to go to heaven or be accepted by God.

If there has ever been a book written to show us that man is not good and is not capable of being righteous enough to be accepted by God, it would be the Book of Romans

Man in general

Romans 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Romans 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Romans 1:28–29 (NKJV)

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;
²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness,.....

The religious man

Romans 2:3 (NKJV)

³ And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?

Romans 2:23–25 (NKJV)

²³ You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? ²⁴ For “*the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,*”

Romans 3:9–12 (NKJV)

⁹ What then? Are we better *than they*? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.

¹⁰ As it is written:

“*There is none righteous, no, not one;*

¹¹ *There is none who understands;*

*There is none who seeks after God.
12 They have all turned aside;
They have together become unprofitable;
There is none who does good, no, not one.”*

Man cannot be righteous to be accepted by God.

Romans 3:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

This is the problem that humanity faces, it is insurmountable by human effort or capabilities. But the devil, along with religion, human philosophy and modern psychology have done a great job at convincing the mass of humanity that we are basically good and really don't have a sin problem.

This has been devastating to the efforts of the gospel.

More and more, when men and women read or hear statements like,

“Are you saved?”

“ Have you repented”

“ Do you have Jesus as your Savior”

The response, although not always audible is...

“Saved from what?”

“Repented of what?”

“I need Jesus as a savior from what?”

Inherently behind these statements is the assumption that “I am a good person” or in the biblical terms..... “I am righteous enough that God is ok with me”.

But this is patently false. It is damning error that will send millions to hell. Because of what the majority of the world’s religions teach and the predominant worldview of most, many see no need for the gospel.

They have been blinded by one of the most destructive and hell determining doctrines of all doctrines.....self righteousness.

It is highly deceitful and convincing to the depraved human heart. It soothes the pains of sin and makes you feel better about yourself. It is self exalting and the ultimate expression of pride.

It is what condemned Israel time and time again. It is what the prophet confronted. It is what ultimately caused the Jews as a nation to reject their messiah. It was and is the false religion of Judaism. Jesus confronted it head on in Matthew 19.

Matthew 19:16–26 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”

¹⁷ So He said to him, “**Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.**”

¹⁸ He said to Him, “Which ones?”

Jesus said, “*‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’* ¹⁹ *‘Honor your father and your mother,’* and, *‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*”

²⁰ The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?”

²¹ Jesus said to him, “**If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**”

²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

²³ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁵ When His disciples heard *it*, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁶ But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Matthew 23:25–28 (NKJV)

²⁵ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. ²⁶ Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

²⁷ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men’s* bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Paul recognized this.

Philippians 3:4–9 (NKJV)

⁴ though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

Paul recognized what most in our world and the church do not, that he did not have and could not produce the perfect righteousness needed to be right with God.

After Paul was converted from a self-righteous religion, he wrote the book of Romans the specifically teaches who a sinner can be righteous in the sight of God.

Romans 1:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “*The just shall live by faith.*”

Romans 3:20–24 (NKJV)

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Romans 3:27–30 (NKJV)

²⁷ Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. ²⁹ Or *is He* the God of the Jews only? *Is He* not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, ³⁰ since *there is* one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

This brings us to our text tonight.

Paul has been dealing with answering the question about the potential accusation of God that He does not keep His promises and that He does not keep His covenants.

This is brought up because the teaching of the security we have in Christ and the promise of no condemnation in Christ, yet we have this real problem of Israel. Has God walked away, turned his back, broke His promise to Israel.

This is summed up by

Romans 9:6 (NKJV)

⁶ But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel,

Paul answered with a most profound answer.

This has been the plan all along. That not all who are Israel physical are True spiritual Israel. This has been determined by the Elective purpose of God

Paul makes it clear that He chose to bring the seed from Abraham thru Isaac, not Ishmael...

Also He chose Jacob and not Esau.

This is done according to God's own purpose and had absolutely nothing to do with their works

Romans 9:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God

according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls),

Paul says this is the Sovereign plan, the He chose. It is God's choice, not Abrahams, not Isaac, not Ishmael, not Jacob, not Esau!!!

So Paul defends the truthfulness and dependability of

I. God's Promise

Second, as a result of this, He sees the need to defend

2. God's Person.

Then He elaborates on

3. God's Plan.

The plans was never for the promise and the covenant to just be for Israel. Through Abraham, according to Genesis 12, the blessing of the covenant would come to all nations,

Paul will later explain in Romans 11 that Israel is the Root into which the nations are grafted in.

Romans 9:22–26 (NKJV)

²² What if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much

longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, ²⁴ *even* us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

²⁵ As He says also in Hosea:

*“I will call them My people, who were not My people,
And her beloved, who was not beloved.”*

²⁶ *“And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them,
‘You are not My people,’
There they shall be called sons of the living God.”*

So Paul has not made it very clear that all of this was part of God’s Sovereign Election. It is is Plan of Redemption.

Not only has he chosen Israel to be the root and the Jews who make up the true seed of Abraham, but also he has chosen the Gentiles.

This is an amazing statement.

Totally shocking to the Jewish mind.... That Gentiles would be included in the plan for Israel.

God can do with Israel and Gentiles as He wills.
He chose Jews and Gentiles to be the bride of Christ
the True Israel.
He Elected.

This is the first answer to the question of How Gods
promise and covenant has not failed!.

God chose for it to be this way and elected the ones
that would be saved.

BUT....

That is not enough.
Election never saved anyone. Election cannot save
anyone.
Election on marks out the ones that God will save!

Romans 5:6–10 (NKJV)

⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due
time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁸ But God
demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while
we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more
then, having now been justified by His blood, we
shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if
when we were enemies we were reconciled to God

through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

2 Timothy 2:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Both Jew and Gentile must believe to be saved. Both Jew and Gentile must have righteousness granted to them by God to be saved.

The Elect sinners are no more righteous than the non elect sinner. The elect of God before salvation, are just as far away from God as the reprobate.

So now Paul makes a most astonishing statement of why most of Israel has been lost and the Gentiles are included...

Romans 9:30–10:4 (NKJV)

³⁰ What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; ³¹ but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not

attained to the law of righteousness. ³² Why? Because *they did* not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. ³³ As it is written:

*“Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense,
And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”*

10 Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Lesson:

God’s promise

God’s person

God’s plan

God’s Provision

1 God’s Provision for the Gentiles

2 God's Pronouncement of the Jews

1 God's Provision for the Gentiles

Romans 9:30–33 (NKJV)

³⁰ What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith;

Romans 10:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ But Isaiah is very bold and says:

*"I was found by those who did not seek Me;
I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me."*

Isaiah 65:1 (NKJV)

"I was sought by *those who* did not ask for Me;
I was found by *those who* did not seek Me.
I said, 'Here I am, here I am,'
To a nation *that* was not called by My name.

This is a most amazing statement.... the very ones that never pursued God, desired righteousness, got

it. They weren't looking for it and had no inclination toward it. Yet these are the ones that got it.

That
Gentiles, who did not pursue
righteousness,

Original Word: **διώκω**

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: diókó

Phonetic Spelling: (dee-o'-ko)

1377 diókō – properly, **aggressively chase, like a hunter pursuing a catch** (prize). 1377 (diókō) is used positively ("**earnestly pursue**") and negatively ("**zealously persecute, hunt down**"). In each case, 1377 (diókō) means pursue with all haste ("**chasing**" **after**), earnestly desiring to overtake (apprehend).

Romans 9:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have **attained** to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith;

Attained (κατελαβεν [*katelaben*]). Second aorist active indicative of καταλαμβάνω [*katalambanō*], old verb, to grasp, to seize, to overtake

Robertson, A. T. (1933). [*Word Pictures in the New Testament*](#) (Ro 9:30). Broadman Press.

Paul is not saying that the Gentiles somehow attained or found the righteousness on their own.
NO— —

The Bible is explicit

Romans 8:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.
⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 3:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ *There is none who understands;
There is none who seeks after God.*

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

John 6:44 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

The point Paul is making is that they did not have the obstacle of self-righteousness in the way.

“when the gospel came through Christ, far more Gentiles than Jews believed. The greatest obstacle to salvation is self-righteousness. The person who thinks he is already righteous and pleases God will see no need for salvation. As noted above, because most Jews thought they had satisfied God by their Jewishness or their works righteousness, they felt no need for the gospel of grace through faith.”

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). [Romans](#) (Vol. 2, p. 50). Moody Press.

Acts 13:36–50 (NKJV)

³⁶ “For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; ³⁷ but He whom

God raised up saw no corruption. ³⁸ Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; ³⁹ and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.....

⁴² So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. ⁴³ Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

⁴⁴ On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. ⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.

⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us:

*'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles,
That you should be for salvation to the ends of the
earth.'*"

⁴⁸ Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.

Self-Righteous People are not savable. They dont see the need for it and there pride will forbid they lay it down and admit that they are unworthy sinners.

The... Jews was that they did not **pursue ... the righteousness which is by faith**, but instead relied on their birthright as Jews or on their supposed good works in obedience to God's law. But no person has ever been saved, at any time, under any dispensation or covenant, on any other basis than

faith exercised in response to God’s gracious call. It is that truth that the writer of Hebrews makes so clear. From Abel through the prophets, men “gained [God’s] approval through their faith” (Heb. 11:4–39). As Paul explicitly establishes earlier in this letter, Abraham, “the father of all who believe,” was saved by his faith, which God “reckoned as righteousness” —before He required the rite of circumcision and long before He gave His law through Moses (Rom. 4:1–11).

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1 God’s Provision for the Gentiles

2 God’s Pronouncement of the Jews

31 but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness.

law of righteousness — the principle, or standard
of righteousness

32 Why? Because *they did* not seek *it* by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law.

The... Jews was that they did not **pursue ... the righteousness which is by faith**, but instead relied on their birthright as Jews or on their supposed good works in obedience to God's law.

But no person has ever been saved, at any time, under any dispensation or covenant, on any other basis than **faith** exercised in response to God's gracious call. It is that truth that the writer of Hebrews makes so clear. From Abel through the prophets, men "gained [God's] approval through their faith" (Heb. 11:4–39).

As Paul explicitly establishes earlier in this letter, Abraham, "the father of all who believe," was saved by his faith, which God "reckoned as righteousness" —before He required the rite of circumcision and long before He gave His law through Moses (Rom. 4:1–11).

Romans 4:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Therefore *it is* of faith that *it might be* according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all

Romans 10:3–4 (NKJV)

³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

⁴ For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Romans 4:5 (NKJV)

⁵ But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

Romans 3:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Galatians 2:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Romans 3:21–22 (NKJV)

²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

Titus 3:5–7 (NKJV)

⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing

of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Why did thy seek it by works,

32..... For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.

33 As it is written:

*“Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense,
And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”*

1 Peter 2:6–8 (NKJV)

⁶ Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture,

*“Behold, I lay in Zion
A chief cornerstone, elect, precious,
And he who believes on Him will by no means be
put to shame.”*

⁷ Therefore, to you who believe, *He is precious*; but to those who are disobedient,

*“The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone,”*

⁸ and

*“A stone of stumbling
And a rock of offense.”*

They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

1 Corinthians 1:22–23 (NKJV)

²² For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

Romans 11:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ And if by grace, then *it is* no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if *it is* of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

⁷ What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.

Matthew 5:1–6 (NKJV)

5 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. ² Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

- ³ “**Blessed *are* the poor in spirit,**
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ **Blessed *are* those who mourn,**
For they shall be comforted.
- ⁵ **Blessed *are* the meek,**
For they shall inherit the earth.
- ⁶ **Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,**
For they shall be filled.

