

ROMANS: TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

(Romans 10:1-8)

Parents how many times do you have to repeat yourself to get your kids to actually do what you asked? Like once? Quietly? Gently? OR like several times, each time w/ increasing voice?

Paul is repeating himself. WHY? B/c he knows that the Church needs to have the same truth said over and over until it sinks in!! =True in your life; true in your kids' life'; it's true spiritually

Paul moves from God's sovereign election in Ch. 9, to Israel's willing disobedience and unbelief in Ch. 10. Paul makes the appeal and is praying that the Jews would turn from their unbelief and ignorance of the Truth and turn to Jesus so as to be saved.

Paul's focus here is on Israel's willing unbelief and the spiritual ignorance that unbelief brings

Read Romans 10:1-8

Brothers *and sisters*, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them [Jews] is for *their* salvation. ² For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. ³ For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ is the ^[a]end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

⁵ For Moses writes of the righteousness that is based on the Law, that the person who performs them will live by them. ⁶ But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will go up into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down), ⁷ or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching

Vs. 1: Brothers *and sisters*, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. Sound familiar? This is Paul's earnest motive and plea for the Jews—their salvation **Rom. 9:1-2** "my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, ² that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. ³ For I could ^[a]wish that I myself were accursed, *separated from Christ for the sake of my countrymen.*" This is not a theological message of sovereignty and election here; this is a passionate plea for the gospel and their obedience to believe/trust in Christ as Savior. Heartfelt. Appealing to their minds, hearts, and will – that they would CHOOSE Christ as Savior.

How Powerful that Paul begins this new section with his heart toward the Jews who are lost; these are the same Jews that tried to kill him time and again. (How do you react when someone treats you poorly; lies to you; insults you? Tells lies about you? Tries to hurt you/family?)

Acts 9:23 "When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him (Kill him
Acts 14:19 "But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead."

=Consider all the ways that Paul suffered at the hands of Jews and zealous persecutors:

-2 Cor. 11:25-27 "in far more imprisonments, ^[a]beaten times without number, often in *danger of death*. ²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine *lashes*. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent *adrift* at sea. ²⁶ *I have been* on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from *my* countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, dangers among false brothers; ²⁷ *I have been* in labor and

hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.” Paul suffered greatly at the hands of those he was sent to give gospel of grace -BUT... Paul is also reminded that he was the very same way before conversion: He tried to kill Christians & destroy the church; Paul was forgiven much and received such grace from the Lord. In turn, Paul gets to forgive much and extend great grace toward those who persecuted him. Just like Jesus did for them and for US! -Luke 23:23:34 “Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing” = that was a prayer from Jesus to the Father for the salvation of his murderers! -Mt 5:44 “But I say to you, love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you,”

-Paul heard Stephen, the Church’s first martyr pray this same prayer as Paul stood to watch him die: -Acts 7:60 Stephen prayed: “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” =This would be etched in Paul’s heart forever.

1. Not only is Paul’s heart to love those who persecuted him, praying for their salvation, BUT
2. No one understood better the congruence between God’s absolute sovereignty in election and man’s responsibility to accept the gospel by faith than Paul. Paul knew that consistent with God’s sovereign power and grace that Israel’s salvation was possible; And he prayed for it!!!
-Paul knew His responsibility as a believer saved by grace, and OUR same responsibility as believers in Jesus is to **teach, preach, proclaim, live out loud, testify, and intercede** for the lost fully holding -1Tim. 2:3-4 that “God our Savior, wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” Paul theologian=yes. **BUT, has a missionary heart, calling, zeal!!!**

Vs. 2:For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. ³ For not knowing about God’s righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

Have you ever seen s-one attempt a job at something and you just knew they were doing it all wrong, (lady trying to change a flat tire with wrong lug-nut tire iron; special security lug-nut). -
-Worked really hard, passionately =ultimately useless. *Ladder/on wrong wall – i.e. Islam

*Israel, God’s own Cov. People, have a long tradition of getting this wrong; fixated on wrong thing **and MISSING the Point altogether.** (W/passion, they acted in ignorance, willful rebellion)

-Isaiah 5:13 “Therefore My people go into exile for their lack of knowledge;”

-Hos. 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Since you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the Law of your God, I also will forget your children.”

-Mark 7:13 Jesus accuses the religious elite: “thereby invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down”

-Mt. 15:8-9 Jesus speaks of Israel: ““This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.⁹ And in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.””

-2 Tim. 3:7 “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Does the lack of knowledge occur because we are NOT listening? Not Interested? Distracted? Stubborn? Self-righteous and believe your own knowledge? Is it bc you have believed a lie? Deceived? -Is it possible to know all about someone, but not KNOW them? (Gov. Abbot)

-Can you know a lot about God, Bible, Church – and NOT KNOW God personally, intimately, spiritually? YES -Mt. 7:21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. ²² Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast

out demons, and in Your name perform many [s]miracles?’²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; leave Me, you who practice lawlessness.’

-Are some of you fixated on being a good person and trying to earn favor with God – but have missed the very point of God’s message to your heart? =You can’t ever be good enough. Only Jesus was; **Jesus did what we could never do** – and **He did it for us so we could KNOW God**.

Vs. 3: For not knowing about God’s righteousness [which was perfectly revealed in the person of Jesus] “Jesus is the visible image of invisible God” Col. 1:15 & Jn 14:9 “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father”and [now] seeking to establish their own [righteousness], they **did not subject** themselves to the righteousness of God [that is found in a saving faith relationship through Jesus] =**They rejected Jesus!** ⁴ For Christ is the end of the Law [i.e. the end goal of the Law] for righteousness to everyone who believes. =**The LAW points to the Lawgiver**. The Law ultimately points to the only One who perfectly kept the Law=Jesus. BUT, The Jews reject Christ, & keep to tradition/LAW so as to pursue their own works-righteousness and try to earn God’s favor by being “perfect” in LAW.

Paul gets this. This was also his own story before conversion: *Paul was the “perfect” Jew. He knew firsthand what it meant to pour himself into religious rules and works-righteousness, trying to earn God’s favor:

- Phil 3:6 “as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, I was found blameless.”

-Gal.1:14 “For you have heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it; I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.”

-1 Cor. 15:9 “For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”

Many of us are playing at being the “perfect” Christian. (keep up the façade, but hollow inside) Many of us have a “righteousness” of our own that is centered in self; it is a counterfeit righteousness; deceiving & self-deceiving; **Like a rotten apple (outside looks fine/inside spoiled)**. Self-sufficiency in our spiritual life is putrid/rotten in God’s eyes – Mt. 7:21

Paul is reminded that this was his life too -1 Tim. 1:12-13 “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service,¹³ even though I was previously a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;” Self-righteousness is the height of pride and ignorance. It is the height of unbelief and self-belief. It is deadly; Fatal if not changed!

“Ignorance of God does not bring rejection of Him, but rather rejection of God brings spiritual ignorance of Him.” MacArthur

Vs. 8: But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching *Just as the Law of God in the OT was accessible, easy to understand, and given that they would try and attempt to keep it (imperfectly); SO, in the same way, the gospel is accessible to all, easy to understand, and requires simple faith – just believe: just TRUST in Jesus for salvation.

APPLICATION: Earnest prayer is not in contradiction to God’s Sovereignty; that’s His plan for us -Religious Sincerity is not a basis for truth; people can be sincerely wrong in what they place faith in. – The greatest work God requires of us is surrender: surrender pride, works, self, favor