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The Prayer of Salvation

Romans 10:9 is a verse that is taken out of context more often than not in the Church today. In chapter 10, Paul expounds on the law of God, calling it the LAW OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. So, let's review this chapter to gain understanding to the true meaning of verse 9.

Ready? ...Verse 1 ...

Romans 10:1

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.(NAS)

First, he addresses the readers as "brethren". Letting us know that the readers of this letter are already believers. He then declares that his desire and prayer for the physical Israel is their salvation. It must be noted here that the "salvation" mentioned is not regarding salvation *by way of what some would call conversion* but *rather being saved at the return of Yeshua*. We'll cover this in detail a little later. Verse 2...

Romans 10:2

For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.
(NKJV)

Paul clearly states that Israel has a zeal for God but that their zeal is NOT in accordance with knowledge. Paul is saying that their zeal is not based on the knowledge that the Father had given them - THE LAW - *The true foundation of knowledge*.

Are there any Scriptures that would give us any indication of this? There are a few...

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of (Yahweh) the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. (NKJV)

Now, if the fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge, biblically speaking, what does it mean to

fear Yahweh?

Deuteronomy 6:1-2

These are the commands, decrees and laws (Yahweh) the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear (Yahweh) the LORD your God... (NIV)

So, one could say that the Biblical definition of knowledge, that Paul is speaking of here, is to fear Yahweh - and TO FEAR YAHWEH IS TO OBEY HIS COMMANDS as given in Deuteronomy.

There are others that we could consider but I think it's clear that Paul is simply saying that their zeal is not based on the knowledge that the Father had given them - *the LAW - The true foundation of knowledge.*

This becomes more evident in the following verses. Verse 3...

Romans 10:3

For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. (NAS)

This is exactly what Christ Himself said regarding what the Pharisees and teachers of the law did in

They clung to that which was passed down them instead of the Word of God.

Mark 7:8-9

"Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men." He was also saying to them, "You nicely set aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. (NASB)

He then says in verse 10 ... "*For Moses said ...*" thus equating what Moses said to the commandment of God.

And in verse 13 Christ also teaches us that what was WRITTEN BY MOSES IS THE WORD OF GOD.

Mark 7:13

thus invalidating the Word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that." (NASB)

So they made their own righteousness instead of holding to that which the Word declares is righteousness. And what is that righteousness?

Deuteronomy 6:25

And if we are careful to obey all this law before (Yahweh) the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness."(NIV)

So obedience to the law is the righteousness that the Lord desires us to live out.

Now some may quickly say "That was the Old Testament! We're in the New Testament now!" So *does the NT ever equate the law for our righteousness?* Well, a little later we will clearly see that this very chapter calls the Law, the RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT IS BY FAITH - The faith that we are to walk by.

Some others are...

Romans 2:13

For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. (NIV)

1 John 3:7

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. (NIV)

Biblically speaking, what does it mean, here in 1 John, to do what is right? Well, in keeping with biblical definitions...

Deuteronomy 6:17-18

Be sure to keep the commands of (Yahweh) the LORD your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you. Do what is right and good in (Yahweh's) the LORD's sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the good land that (Yahweh) the LORD promised on oath to your forefathers, (NIV)

AND ...

Deuteronomy 12:28

Be careful to obey all these regulations I am giving you, so that it may always go well with you and your children after you, because you will be doing what is good and right in the eyes of (Yahweh) the LORD your God. (NIV)

It must be noted that 1 John speaks much about obedience to the Law.

1 John 2:3-6

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. (NIV)

1 John 3:4

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. (NIV)

1 John 3:22-24

and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us. (NIV)

1 John 5:2-3

This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, (NIV)

So, the righteousness we are to seek is God's righteousness. Can you think of a verse where Christ

Himself said this?

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (ASV)

This is the exact same Greek word for righteousness as Paul uses in verse 3.

Let's go back to verse 3 and read it again to refresh where we're at in Romans 10.

Romans 10:3

For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. (NAS)

The problem, back then, and today, is *that man tries to make his own righteousness*. More often than not, it comes from the previous church fathers, this is just like that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law did. They were going on what was passed down to them instead of going on what the Word of God said.

We forget, though, that the Lord declares our righteousness is as filthy rags through Isaiah.

Isaiah 64:6

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. (NIV)

Yet this is what Israel was doing. They were substituting their righteousness for God's righteousness. And this is what Paul is talking about here in verse 3. That Israel had completely set aside the law given to them, *true righteousness* and focused on the traditions passed down to them, *their own righteousness*.

Paul continues on track with this topic in verse 4...

Romans 10:4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (NKJV)

This is where the church begins to mis-represent Paul. They use this verse to say that Paul is saying that Christ did away with the Law, saying that Yeshua brought it to an end, thus saying He is the end of the Law. However, if this is the case, then Paul himself is contradicting the very words of Christ. For Christ did say...

Matthew 5:17-18

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. “For truly I say to you, UNTIL HEAVEN AND EARTH PASS AWAY, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. (NAS)

For a further study on this verse, see our "Abolish or Fulfill" teaching, or our teaching titled “Pleroo the Law”.

But, do remember the phrase "*until Heaven and Earth pass away*". We'll come back to that a little later.

Romans 10:4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (NAS)

Here in verse 4, Paul is simply saying that Christ is the end of the law similar to the end zone of a football field, meaning He is the goal of the law. He is the living example of that which we strive for.

Just like Revelation is the end of the Bible, Christ is the end of the law. And just as Revelation didn't do away with all of the rest of Scripture, Christ didn't do away with the Law.

The Greek for "end" is **Telos**. It can also carry the meaning of end by way of being the goal.

This will all make sense in a moment. Simply because the verses following verse 4 shows the exact opposite of what the church claims Paul is talking about.

The next verse is where Paul starts showing that the law is still alive and well.

Romans 10:5

For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness. (NAS)

"Live by that righteousness". "Live" is a verb. Simply meaning to DO, put into ACTION... to actually LIVE OUT THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS.

We cannot ignore that the righteousness that Paul is speaking of here is the righteousness that Moses wrote.

Paul is speaking of the same righteousness referred to in verse three. What is that righteousness?

Romans 10:3

For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. (NAS)

Thus, the Pharisees and teachers of the law may have been preaching the righteousness of God - the law - But they only were reading it then following their own laws. They weren't living it. Even Christ told his disciples...

Matthew 23:1-3

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. (NIV)

The Lord desires us to LIVE the law - God's righteousness - from our heart, from an inward desire to love God and not just obey it.

Verse 5 is where Paul is expounding on a quote from Lev 18:5... Consider

Leviticus 18:5

Keep my decrees and laws, for the man who obeys them will live by them. I am (Yahweh) the LORD.(NIV)

This was the very righteousness of God that they were supposed to be living. The same righteousness that Christ said we should seek. The righteousness of God that was given through Moses.

NEXT, in verse 6, we find Paul quoting from Deuteronomy ... Before we read Paul's words, let's look at the verses he actually quotes from in Deuteronomy, Deuteronomy 30.

Deuteronomy 30:11-14

Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. (NIV)

These verses are referencing the law that Moses gave.

Now, let's read from **Paul in verses 6-8** ... Remember, these three verses, Paul quotes from these verses in Deuteronomy regarding God's law - not man's law or even a supposed "new" law of God given in the New Testament.

It must be noted also that the Greek version of the first word given in the next verse is " $\delta\epsilon$ " - *Dae* – It is a conjunction that simply means "*And, But or Now*" - pending the interpreters view. And in this case, the interpreters view of the law - in how it relates to us today. Any interpreter who believes the law has been done away with will be more apt to separate the righteousness mentioned in the quote of Leviticus that Paul gave us in verse 5, from the righteousness that is by faith as mentioned in verse 6. But you're about to see these verses are referring to the *exact same* righteousness that comes through the law. The EXACT same.

So in reading Paul's quote from Deuteronomy, we're going to show you the Greek words, with their meanings, where the interpreters placed the word "but" and we'll let you decide which matches the context best. So, here's Paul's quote starting in verse 6

Romans 10:6-8

But (And, But " $\delta\epsilon$ or Now) the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But ($\alpha\lambda\lambda\alpha$ But, Rather, on the contrary) what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart" that is, the word of faith WE ARE PROCLAIMING: (NIV)

So Paul is quoting from Deuteronomy regarding the law, the law of righteousness that is by FAITH. He declares it right here. The word of faith that Paul was proclaiming was the LAW! This should make complete sense because Christ is the Word made flesh.

This text clearly proves that verses 5 AND 6 are speaking of the SAME law and should be referenced as such and NOT in a manner of separating them. The word " $\delta\epsilon$ " should not be interpreted as "but", it should be interpreted as "and" or "now" meaning the "law" that is mentioned in verses four and five is the exact same "law" that is being referenced here in verses six through eight. Paul is not giving a distinction, he is showing it is all the same.

When we try to separate these verses from referring to the same law, the law of God through Moses, as the context clearly shows, we bring confusion and are forced to create a new law that simply does not exist.

Many, at this point will refer to Philippians...

Philippians 3:9

and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, (NAS)

First, the Greek doesn't say "the law". The Greek simply says "law". Leaving the context to show which law is being spoken of. Which is *man's law* as established in verse 6 in this same chapter.

Starting from verse 3...

Philippians 3:3-6

for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. (NAS)

This is the law where he said he was blameless or faultless, yet we know that Paul said regarding God's law...

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (NAS)

Establishing the fact that NO ONE can be blameless to God's law but Christ alone. Yet one could be perfect to man's law. As was Paul's testimony to the Philippians here in chapter 3.

It was those very things that Paul considered a loss compared to knowing Christ in verse 7 and longed for the righteousness from God which is based on faith as mentioned in verse 9.

Philippians 3:9

and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. (NIV)

Having said that...let's read that last verse again and continue on with where we were...

Romans 10:8-9

But (*ἀλλὰ* But, Rather, on the contrary) what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith WE ARE PROCLAIMING: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (NIV)

Remember, Paul is quoting Deuteronomy 30 here. This is what was said regarding the law, the righteousness that is by FAITH, declared here by Paul. The word of faith that Paul was proclaiming was the LAW! Not man's law, but God's Law.

And we must remember that Paul is already talking to believers here as mentioned in verse 1.

Romans 10:1

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. (NAS)

He even includes them in verse 8 as to what they all are proclaiming.

Romans 10:8-9

But (ἀλλὰ But, Rather, on the contrary) what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith WE ARE PROCLAIMING (NIV)

So he is not talking about conversion here. He is talking about the salvation that comes to believers at the second coming. How do we know this? Well, all of the text must be used for the context. Let's briefly look 4 verses down at verse 13...

Verse 13 is a quote from Joel 2:32. Verse 13 says:

Romans 10:13

for "WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." (NAS)

Now, let's look at Joel 2:32 along with the previous verse for the context of what Paul is quoting here.

Joel 2:31-32

The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of (Yahweh) the LORD. And everyone who calls on the name of (Yahweh) the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as (Yahweh) the LORD has said, among the survivors whom (Yahweh) the LORD calls. (NIV)

So the context that Paul is talking about is all about being saved at the second coming.

So then, just what IS Romans 10:9 saying to us? Let's look at it again...

Romans 10:9

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (NIV)

Verse 9 follows the quote from Deuteronomy regarding the righteousness that is by faith, the Law. Paul is revealing to us the mystery of how Christ is the living law, by way of being the living Word and how the Law was and is in Yeshua just as the Word was and is in Yeshua.

Christ also said that He was Life.

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Are there any other definitions of "LIFE" in the Scriptures?

Deuteronomy 30:19

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses... (NIV)

Let's pause here for a moment. Earlier in this teaching I referred to the phrase and asked you to remember it. Remember what it was? It was from Matthew 5 where Yeshua said:

Matthew 5:17-18

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. “For truly I say to you, UNTIL HEAVEN AND EARTH PASS AWAY, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. (NAS)

So why would Yeshua say this? Because, as given here in Deuteronomy, THEY are the witnesses to the law being established until the NEW HEAVEN and NEW EARTH.

Let's read that verse one more time and then we'll continue on with our definitions of "Life".

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. NOW CHOOSE LIFE, so that you and your children may live and that you may love (Yahweh) the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. FOR (Yahweh) THE LORD IS YOUR LIFE, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (NIV)

So God is declared as "LIFE". So, biblically speaking, Christ is life AND God is life. What other definitions of Life do we have? ...

Well, just a couple chapters later...

Deuteronomy 32:46-47

he said to them, “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you — THEY ARE YOUR LIFE. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.” (NIV)

So, now we see the LAW IS DECLARED "LIFE".

Yeshua, Yahweh, and the Law are all defined as "Life" in the Scriptures. When you accept Yeshua, you accept life. Thus you are accepting Yahweh and the Law! They are *completely synonymous* with each other.

THIS is being born again - BECAUSE you are proclaiming Yeshua who IS and GIVES life - the living law—TORAH. So *that which is life - gives life.* ...

Living the law is not your salvation. Living the law is PROOF of your *salvation because the Spirit has placed the Law in your heart.* Faith is the root, and obedience is the fruit.

This is nothing new - just true. Consider even the conversation between Christ and Nicodemus...

John 3:7-10

You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? (NIV)

Notice how Yeshua is surprised at Nicodemus. Christ is NOT presenting anything new. This is straight from the Scriptures. In fact, verse 13 of John is a direct referral to Deuteronomy 30:20. Let's look at it...

John 3:13-17

No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven — the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him (life, law, God) may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him (the law/ life) shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son (the Living law/ life) into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him (the living law/ life). (NIV)

Does this sound foreign to you? Allow me to remind you where your salvation comes from.

1 Peter 1:23

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. (NIV)

It's not the "changing word of God" or even "*partial word of God*". It's the "ENDURING WORD OF GOD".

Again, living the law is not your salvation. Living the law is the PROOF of your salvation - because that which is in you (Christ - the Law by way of Jeremiah 31:33 and Ezekiel 36:27) will come out of you.

Again, the Word that is in you will come out of you. The Word is the seed as 1 Peter said. This parallels the parable of the sower where Yeshua said that

Luke 8:11

This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's Word.

And it's this Word that is to be planted in our hearts. Compare

Jeremiah 31:33

"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. (NIV)

Ezekiel 36:27

And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. (NIV)

If you plant an apple seed, you get an apple tree. When you plant the word (Christ - the living law) in you, you get the Word (Christ - the living law) out of you.

Like kind produces like kind.

Let's continue with verse 10...

Romans 10:10

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and ("δε") it is with your mouth that you confess and (no GK) are saved. (NIV)

Ever heard the phrase "*The proof is in the pudding.*"? This is exactly what Paul is saying. He knows that when one truly has the Word in His heart that it will come out of his mouth and then the rest will follow.

It's a direct referral to Deuteronomy 30:14

Deuteronomy 30:14

No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart SO YOU MAY OBEY IT. (NIV)

Notice that it is to be in our mouth and heart so we obey it. Christ Himself said in Luke 6:45

Luke 6:45

"The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart. (NAS)

When the Word is truly in you it WILL come out of you. Showing forth that the living the law is PROOF of your salvation.

We must remember that it is to BE IN OUR HEART AND IN OUR MOUTH. There are examples where it came out of mouths, simply for a show, but was not in the heart. Thus obedience did not follow.

Ezekiel 33:31

My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice. With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain. (NIV)

True obedience, starts in the heart and works its way out. This is why Deuteronomy 30:14 says it is to be in our mouth and in our heart. Paul then continues:

Romans 10:11-12

As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." FOR THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JEW AND GENTILE — the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, (NIV)

Is this something new? Of course not.

Numbers 15:15

The community is to have the same rules for you and for the alien living among you; this is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. **YOU AND THE ALIEN SHALL BE THE SAME BEFORE THE LORD: (NIV)**

Back to Romans 10...

Romans 10:13

for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (NIV)

As mentioned earlier, this is a direct referral to Joel chapter 2 regarding the return of Christ.

Moving on to verse 14...

Romans 10:14-15

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And (δε) how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And (δε) how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And (δε) how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (NIV)

Good news about what? This is a quote from Isaiah 52:7. 52:8 shows that the topic here is the Lord's return to Zion, again, the topic of His second coming. Here's where Paul is quoting from:

Isaiah 52:7-8

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When (Yahweh) the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. (NIV)

Continuing on in Romans 10.

Romans 10:16

But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" (NIV)

So was faith required back then? Absolutely!

Hebrews chapters 3 and 4 specifically tells us that it was the lack of faith that kept the first generation under Moses out of the promise land. Think about that for a moment. The lack of faith kept them OUT of the promised land. Let's read it...

Hebrews 3:14-19

We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion." Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned (BROKE

THE LAW), whose bodies fell in the desert? And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed (THE LAW)? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief. (NIV)

Please notice that unbelief is equated here with disobedience to the law. So how is this the case? Because one who believes and confesses is one who walks in obedience. Obedience is the proof of ones' faith. Again, faith is the root and obedience is the fruit. If the seed is in you, it will grow out from you. In this case, it was the proof of their lack of faith.

So was faith required back then? YES! Absolutely! It was. Faith has ALWAYS been required of the Father. It is *not* a New Testament thing.

Consider even these words of Paul just 3 verses before Chapter 10...

Romans 9:30-32

What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. Why? BECAUSE THEY DID NOT PURSUE IT BY FAITH, BUT AS THOUGH IT WERE BY WORKS. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, (NAS)

Please note FAITH was the STUMBLING STONE. They thought it was by works, again meaning *their* works like that which the Pharisees followed from what was passed down to them.

Continuing on...

Romans 9:33

just as it is written, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." (NAS)

The righteousness that the Father established was AND is to be pursued in FAITH.

It always has been. Hebrews then continues...

Hebrews 4:1-2

Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we ALSO have had the gospel preached to us, JUST AS THEY DID; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard DID NOT COMBINE IT WITH FAITH. (NIV)

First notice that we have had the same gospel given to us as to those in those days of Moses. Yet, they did not combine obedience with what they heard. What did they hear? The Law. Speaking of faith, let's continue on with our text in Romans, verse 17:

Romans 10:17-18

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did: "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world." (NIV)

Whose voice has gone out? This is a quote from Psalms 19:4. The context in this Psalm is the heavens

declaring the glory of God. Why is this of any significance? Because this is regarding the witnesses (heaven and earth) declaring God's law 'til the new heaven and new earth.

Psalms 19:4

Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,(NIV)

Continuing on. ...

Romans 10:19

Again I ask: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says, “I will make you envious by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding.” (NIV)

Why would Israel be envious or even angry at another nation or people? Only because these people are following (Yahweh) the Lord according to the ways that He first gave to them. (See our “Envy and Jealousy’ teaching for more on this).

Continuing on. ...

Romans 10:20

And (δε) Isaiah boldly says, “I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me.” (NIV)

This was the whole purpose of Paul's journeys—To spread the good news to the gentiles (the nations). They didn't ask for it - but it was being declared to them.

And concluding...

Romans 10:21

But (δε) (And, But or Now) concerning Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE.” (NIV)

Disobedient to what? THE LAW! So does he do away with the law so they won't be disobedient anymore? NOT AT ALL.

The very ones who rejected Yeshua at His first coming were the very ones who rejected the Law and were following their own laws.

In conclusion, Romans 10:9 is NOT about conversion or a prayer of salvation it's ALL about LIVING THE LIFE OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS ESTABLISHED IN FAITH - THE LAW.

We hope you have enjoyed this study. Remember, *continue to test everything*.

Shalom

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

EMAIL: Info@119ministries.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/119Ministries

WEBSITE: www.TestEverthing.net & www.ExaminaloTodo.net

TWITTER: www.twitter.com/119Ministries#