**Romans 10**

In this chapter, Paul explains why Israel is in its present spiritual condition nationally.

**I. The Reason for the Rejection (10:1-13)**

The key word in this chapter is "righteousness." The Jews wanted righteousness, but tried to obtain it in the wrong way. Like the Pharisees described in [Matt. 23:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+23%3A15), the Jews expended energy in securing a right standing with God, but their deeds were done in ignorance. "Religious people" today are no different; they think that God will accept them for their good works.

The Bible speaks of two kinds of righteousness: "works righteousness," which comes from obeying law; and "faith righteousness," which is the gift of God to those who trust His Son. The Jews would not submit to faith righteousness; their racial and religious pride turned them from simple faith to blind religion. They rejected Christ and clung to the Law, not realizing that Christ was the very one for whom the Law had been preparing the way, and that He Himself had ended on the cross the reign of the Law. The Mosaic law is no longer God's basis for dealing with mankind; He deals with us at the cross, where Christ died for the world. Righteousness by the Law is described in [Lev. 18:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lev+18%3A5); faith righteousness is described in [Deut. 30:12-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+30%3A12-14).

The Deuteronomy passage is used to show that the Word of God is readily available to the sinner, and that Christ is near him and ready to save. [Verses 6-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+30%3A6-8) are a good illustration of Paul's use of OT passages that convey NT truth. In [Deut. 30:11-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+30%3A11-14), Moses warned the people against disobedience to the Word of God. Lest they argue that the Law was far from them (applying especially to the time when Israel would be scattered among the nations, [Deut. 30:1-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+30%3A1-5)), Moses reminded them that they did not have to go to heaven, or across the sea, to find God's Word: it was on their lips and in their hearts. Paul applied this to Christ, the Word ([John 1:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A1)), and pointed out that Israel need not bring Christ down from heaven, or up from the underworld, because the Word of salvation is near to them so that they can believe and be saved. Salvation comes when sinners confess that "Jesus is Lord [Almighty God]" and believe in their hearts that Christ is alive from the dead. What is believed in the heart is confessed openly with the mouth. Some of the Jews in Jesus' day would not openly confess Him ([John 12:42-43](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+12%3A42-43)). When the sinner receives Christ by faith and confesses Him openly, thus proving his faith, he receives the gift of righteousness.

In [v. 11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+30%3A11), Paul again quotes [Isa. 28:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+28%3A16) (see [Rom. 9:33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+9%3A33)): "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame (nkjv)." The Jews disliked that word "whoever" since they thought they were the only "chosen people." But in [v. 13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+28%3A13) Paul cites [Joel 2:32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Joel+2%3A32) to prove that whoever calls upon Christ is saved—and not the Jew only!

**II. The Remedy for the Rejection (10:14-17)**

The sequence here is as follows: (1) messengers are sent; (2) they declare the Word; (3) sinners hear the Word; (4) sinners believe the Word; (5) they call upon Christ; (6) they are saved! The argument here is simply that sinners cannot be saved apart from the Word of God, for "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" ([v. 17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+10%3A17), nkjv). In [v. 15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+10%3A15), Paul refers to [Isa. 52:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+52%3A7), a verse that will have its complete fulfillment in the day when Israel is established in its kingdom. Think of the joy Israel will have when the news comes that its Messiah is reigning! Paul applies this passage to the taking of the Gospel of peace (peace with God and peace between Jew and Gentile, [Eph. 2:13-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+2%3A13-17)) to lost Israel today. We often use [Rom. 10:14-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+10%3A14-15) as the basis for our sending missionaries to Gentile nations, and certainly this application is valid; but the basic meaning here is that of taking the Gospel to Israel today. We take the Gospel to the Jew, not because of [Rom. 1:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A16) ("to the Jew first"), but because of [Rom. 10:14-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+10%3A14-15). If we share Paul's burden for the people of Israel, we will want to share the Gospel with them. The witness who bears the Gospel to the lost (whether Gentile or Jew) certainly has "beautiful feet" in the eyes of God.

What is Israel's attitude today? That of [Isa. 53:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+53%3A1)—"Who has believed?" (nkjv) Just as Israel turned away in unbelief in Christ's day ([John 12:37-38](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+12%3A37-38)) and during the time of witness of the apostles in [Acts 1-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+1-7), so the nation today is settled in unbelief. Paul quotes [Ps. 19:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+19%3A4) in [v. 18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+10%3A18) to show that the Word of God, even through nature, has reached around the world; Israel is without excuse.

**III. The Result of the Rejection (10:18-21)**

The result of Israel's rejection is that God has turned to the Gentiles and is now taking out of them a people for His name (see [Acts 15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+15)). But even this should be no surprise to the Jews, for in [Deut. 32:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+32%3A21), God promised to use other nations to provoke the Jews to jealousy, and in [Isa. 65:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+65%3A1-2), He announced that Israel would be disobedient, but that the Gentiles would find Him and His salvation.

Keep in mind that the OT did promise the salvation of the Gentiles; but nowhere did it teach that Jews and Gentiles would be part of the same plan or that believers from both races would be one in Christ. The OT program provided that the Gentiles would be saved through Israel's rise, that is, its establishment as a kingdom. But Israel fell! What then would God do with the Gentiles? Paul points out in [Rom. 9-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+9-11) that through Israel's fall, mercy was extended to the Gentiles (see [11:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+11%3A11)). God has committed all people, Jews and Gentiles, to unbelief; in this way He can have mercy upon all through the grace made possible at Calvary ([11:32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+11%3A32)).

[Verse 21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+11%3A21) certainly states God's attitude toward Israel, even today. Though the nation is set aside in blindness and unbelief ([2 Cor. 3:15-4:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+3%3A15-4%3A6); [Rom. 11:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+11%3A25)), God yearns after the unsaved Jew just as He does the lost Gentile. No doubt many Jews who are hearing the Word today will trust Christ after the church has been caught up and the Tribulation period begins. Instead of criticizing the Jews for their spiritual blindness, we ought to thank God that they gave us the Bible and Savior, and that even through their fall, salvation was made available to Gentiles!

Before we leave this chapter, note several practical points:

(1) Salvation is not difficult: "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!" ([v. 11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+10%3A11)).

(2) It is important that the Word of God be presented to lost sinners. It is the Word that convicts, that gives faith, that leads to Christ.

(3) There are only two "religions" in the world: works-righteousness and faith-righteousness. Nobody can fulfill the first, but everybody can respond to the second.