

## ROMANS 10

1. Why is this truth important that God the Holy Spirit leads us?

- Because God never wants to push us from behind.
- Because God goes ahead of us to clear the way.
- Because God allows us to follow according to our own understanding.

2. How does God the Holy Spirit lead us?

- First, He helps us to understand who He is.
- Second, He helps us to allow Him to be our God.

3. When does the Holy Spirit help us to understand who He is?

- When we read His Word.

4. How does God the Holy Spirit help us to allow Him to be our God?

- When we understand more about our God.

5. What does adoption mean for Christians?

- This means that our old relationship with sin, death, and Satan is gone.
- And that God our Father has made us a full member of His family that we will receive the inheritance of God Himself.

6. Why is there suffering in the world?

- Firstly, because there is sin in the world.

-Secondly, because God/Jesus said that we will suffer.

7. For the Christian, what does suffering do?

- Suffering brings glory to God, and benefits those who suffer for Christ.

8. How does suffering bring glory to God?

- When we suffer, we are telling the world that knowing God is greater than any suffering.

9. How does suffering benefit the Christian?

- Helps us to cry out to God
- Helps us to better understand God
- Helps us to increase our faith in God
- Helps us to understand that nothing can take away our faith in God.
- Helps us to hate sin.

10. What does it mean that Christians have the “firstfruits of the Spirit”?

- The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the first fruit of God working in the lives of every Christian.
- And the continued presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives is the continual fruit of what God has prepared for us for eternity.

-In Romans chapters 6-8, the theme was this:

-“The Righteousness of God Alone lives a Holy Life in Us.”

-Now, in Romans 9-11, the theme is this:

-“The Righteousness of God Alone is Just.”

-In Romans chapter 9, God and Paul talk about Israel’s lack of belief.

Let’s read Romans 9:2-4a

2-I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.

3-For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race,

4-the people of Israel.

-Why did Paul have great sorrow?

-Because most of the Israelites had rejected Christ.

-Only a few from the nation of Israel believed in Christ.

-Paul loved his fellow Jews, and knew that they were God’s chosen people.

-Why did God choose Israel?

-God chose Israel because He wanted a people through whom He would send His Word.

-God chose Israel because He wanted a people through whom He would send the Savior.

-God chose Israel because He wanted a people which would be the best mirror for all people.

-When you look into a mirror, who do you see?

-Yourself.

-When you look into the mirror of Israel, who do you see?

-Yourself.

-God chose Israel as our example so that when we see Israel, we see ourselves as well.

-Therefore, the stories of Israel in the Old Testament are the stories of all people.

-The stories of Israel and their life with God are examples of our lives and our life with God.

-It was God who chose Israel, and made Himself the God of Israel.

-It was God who chose Israel to have the laws of Moses and the tabernacle.

-It was God who chose Israel through whom to bring the Savior into the world.

-It was God who chose Israel to be an example for us all.

-Even though God had chosen Israel, most of Israel had rejected Christ as Savior.

-Although most of Israel had rejected Christ as Savior, was God rejecting Israel?

-No.

-God was not rejecting Israel, but only explaining who are the true children of Abraham.

Let's read Romans 9:6-8

6-It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.

7-Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."

8-In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.

-In these verses, God is explaining that there are two types of Israel.

-What are the two types of Israel?

-The first Israel is a physical Israel, that is, born into the tribe of Israel.

-The second Israel is a spiritual Israel, that is, born into the family of God.

-The physical Israel is like Ishmael and Esau who were born from Abraham, but did not believe in God.

-The spiritual Israel is like Isaac and Jacob who were also born from Abraham, but believed in God.

-Their spiritual connection was God.

-Here is the problem:

-If you are born in a barn, does that make you a cow?

-No.

-If you are born in a garage, does that make you a car?

-No.

-If you are born in a church, does that make you a Christian?

-No.

-If you are born with a Christian father or mother, does that make you a Christian?

-No.

-God and Paul are teaching that just because Israelites are born into the tribe of Israel does not mean that they are born into the family of God.

-This is the meaning of Romans 6:6: “Not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.”

-People think that their physical birth is the most important, yet God is teaching us that our spiritual birth is the most important.

-This is why Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:3:

-“No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

-Jesus was talking about a spiritual birth, and not a physical birth.

-Since most of Israel did not believe that Jesus was the Savior, does this mean that God is unjust?

-No.

Let's read Romans 9:14-16

14-What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all!

15-For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

16-It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

-God cannot be unjust because He is perfect.

-If God is unjust, then He is not God.

-In Job 34:12, the Word of God says this:

-“It is unthinkable that God would do wrong.”

-In Genesis 18:25, Abraham said, “Will not the Judge of all of the earth do right?”

-As we have just read in Romans 9:16:

-“It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.”

-This truth helps us to understand that salvation is not from our own desires or efforts, but on God's mercy.

-If salvation is only from God's mercy, then why does God not have mercy on everyone, including all of Israel, so that everyone can be saved?

-The simple answer is that God is sovereign, and He does whatever He desires.

-God can choose to show mercy to whomever He chooses.

-God can withhold His goodness from any if He chooses.

-While God, however, is sovereign and does whatever He desires, He cannot be unjust.

-It is impossible for God to be unjust.

-This is the foundation for all of life.

-Because all people have sinned, God could rightly condemn us to death.

-Even though our sin deserves death, it is God's mercy that saves us from death.

Let's read Romans 9:30-33

30-What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith;

31-but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal.

32-Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone.

33-As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame."

-In the verses above, God and Paul are comparing Gentiles and Israelites.

-What is being said about Gentiles?

-That they did not pursue righteousness, but found it by faith.

-Faith in whom?

-The Lord Jesus Christ.

-Most Jews did not believe that God would include the Gentiles in salvation because the Gentiles did not have the laws of Moses which God gave to Israel.

-Even though the Gentiles did not have the law and were living more sinfully, they were willing to listen to God's Word.

-Many Gentiles listened to the teaching of Paul and others.

-Many Gentiles admitted that they had sinned against God, and believed in Jesus to save them.

-God saved these Gentiles, and began to use them instead of Israel to do His work.

-After the resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit, we can see how God is using Gentiles more than Israel to teach His Word to the world.

-What is being said about Israelites?

-That Israel pursued righteousness by trying to keep the law and did not find it.

-Why did Israel not find righteousness?

-Because they looked for righteousness according to their works, and not according to faith.

-In the verses above, who is the stumbling stone and the rock that makes people fall?

-The Lord Jesus Christ.

-Therefore, is it God's injustice that has caused Israel to be rejected?

-No.

-Israel's rejection is not from God, but rather that Israel alone is responsible for their rejection.

-Why?

-Because they thought that God accepted them because they were born into the tribe of Israel.

-Because they thought that God accepted them because they tried to keep the law.

-How are Israelites saved?

-By faith.

-How are Gentiles saved?

-By faith.

-Faith in what?

-Faith in knowing that no one can keep God's laws, and that God alone must save us.

-Salvation and righteousness are by faith in God alone.

-Why do non-Christians reject the righteousness of God?

-Because they do not think it is necessary.

-Because they cannot earn it.

-Because they want to have a part in their own salvation.

-What is the barrier to faith in Christ?

-Self righteousness.

-Even though most of Israel rejected Christ, God and Paul wanted all of Israel to be saved.

Let's read Romans 10:1-4

1-Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.

2-For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge.

3-Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

4-Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

-How can we be sure that God wants to save not only all of Israel, but all people?

-In 1 Timothy 2:4, we read that God "wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

-In 2 Peter 3:9, we learn that God "is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

-If God did not want to save people, He would not give us life nor cause us to be born.

-Because God chose Israel, God wants to save all of Israel, but what was the problem?

-Romans 10:3 tells us that because Israel "did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness."

-Why did Israel not know the righteousness of God?

-Because they refused to listen to God's prophets.

-Because they had become proud.

-Because they did not understand how holy God is.

-Because they thought that they could please God by their own good works.

-Because they depended on their own ability to obey the law.

-This is true of all religions except for true Christianity.

-All other religions do not submit to God's righteousness, but rather try to convince God that He should accept them because they:

-Do good things.

-Don't do bad things.

-Try very hard.

-All other religions are people trying to establish their own righteousness.

-Only true Christianity submits to God's righteousness, realizing that no one can make themselves righteous before God.

-Christ alone is our righteousness before God.

Let's read Romans 10:9-13

9-If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10-For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

11-As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.”

12-For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,

13-for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

-With regard to lordship, there are only two types of people in the world. Who are they?

-Those who make themselves lord of their own lives.

-Those who make God/Jesus Lord of their lives.

-As history has shown, God is a much better Lord of people than people themselves.

-Can people say that they believe in Jesus, but not really believe?

-Yes.

-In Matthew 7:21, Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven.”

-Belief must begin with the heart.

-If the heart is not convinced, then there is no belief at all.

-Who is the only One who can convince the heart?

-God alone.

-In Romans 10:12, we learn that there is no difference between Jew and Gentile.

-This means that all people, Jew and Gentile, must believe in the Lord Jesus to be saved.

Let’s read Romans 10:14-15

14-How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

15-And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

-Can people believe if they have not heard?

-No.

-Can people hear if they have not been taught?

-No.



-Can people teach if they have not been sent out?

-No.

-This is the importance for Christians to share that which they have been taught.

-If God has saved us, He has saved us that we might go and teach others who have not heard.

-God could evangelize the entire world all by Himself, but He has chosen His people to go out and teach others.

-Yet will everyone we teach believe in Christ?

Let's read Romans 10:16 & 21

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

21-Concerning Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people."

-There are many prophecies in the Old Testament which talk of Israel's rejection of God's truths.

-Therefore, Israelites should not be surprised that God began to use the Gentiles to do His work.

-Israelites who do not believe are just like Gentiles who

do not believe.

-Just as many Israelites have not believed in Christ, so many Gentiles also do not believe in Christ as Lord.

-While God wants every person to believe, not every person wants to believe.

-Therefore, it is not God who is unjust.

Let's read Romans 11:1-2

1-I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin.

2-God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew.

-Although most of Israel had rejected God, did God reject Israel?

-No.

-Paul was an Israelite, and his salvation on the road to Damascus is a testimony to the truth that God has not rejected Israel.

-Because most of Israel had rejected God, does this mean that God does not want to save individual Jews?

-No.

-Even when most of Israel refused to believe in Christ, there were some who believed.

-God loves all people, including all of Israel, and saves all who believe.

Let's read Romans 11:11-12

11-Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.

12-But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring!

-Because Israel has rejected Christ as their Savior, does this mean that there is no hope for Israel?

-No.

-As Romans 11:11 tells us, Israel has only stumbled or fallen for a short time.

-It is also important to know that because Israel has fallen for a short time, salvation has come to the Gentiles.

Let's read Romans 11:25-26

25-I do not want you to be ignorant of this

mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in,

26-and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob."

-In Romans 11:25, we learn that the hearts of most of Israel have become hard, but it is only for a time.

-After many Gentiles have believed and been saved, God will separate unbelieving Israel from believing Israel.

-And then, all Israelites who would believe will believe, and will be saved.

-Paul concludes chapters 9-11 by saying this:

Let's read Romans 11:33-36

33-Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

34-"Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"

35-"Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?"

36-For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.