



Discussion Questions • Abbotsford/Mission

Title of Sermon: The Pursuit of Righteousness

Passage: Romans 9:30-10:13

1. Read Romans 9:30-33.
 - a. Paul summarizes Romans 9:6-29 and draws a surprising conclusion.
 - i. What is his conclusion
 - ii. What are the implications of his conclusion to the people of Israel?
 - b. Define the term “righteousness?”
 - i. In what way did the people of Israel pursue “the law as the way of righteousness?” Explain your answer
 - c. With all their immense spiritual privileges and covenant promises, the people of Israel failed to attain their goal.
 - i. What caused their failure? Explain your answer.
 - d. Paul says Israel “... stumbled over the stumbling stone.” Then he quotes Isaiah 8:14.
 - i. Who is the stumbling stone?
 - ii. How did the stumbling stone cause people to stumble?
 - e. Identify and discuss some ways people of our day stumble over the stumbling stone.
2. Read Romans 10:1-4.
 - a. In Romans 9:3, Paul wished he “were cursed and cut off from Christ” for the sake of his people, those of his own race. In Romans 10:1, he talks about his desire and prayer for the Israelites, that they may be saved.
 - i. What things can we learn from Paul about having a loving concern for the lost in our families/communities/country?
 - b. In verse 2, Paul acknowledges Israel’s zeal for God.
 - i. Was Israel’s zeal positive or negative? Explain.
 - ii. What was Paul’s criticism of their beliefs? (Name the obstacles Paul highlights in his criticism).
 - iii. What was Israel’s chief problem? (See verse 3b). Do we have the same problem today? Explain.
 - c. Christian moralists view the scriptures as a manual for good behaviour. Moralists rely on their moral actions and good conduct as a *means* of attaining righteousness and therefore eternal life. To the moralist, obedience comes before faith and grace is often obscured.



- i. Was there ever a time in your life when you thought right behaviour made you acceptable before God? If so, please share your story.
- ii. Identify various ways in which some Christians today practice moralism as a means of attaining righteousness.
- iii. Are Christian moralists right in their pursuit for righteousness? Explain.
- iv. What passages of scripture would you use to combat/oppose the belief that moralism leads to acceptance before God?

3. Read Romans 10:5-13.

- a. What is the difference between “righteousness by faith” and “righteousness by the law?”(vv.5-8)
- b. Paul mentions two requirements for salvation in Romans 10:9. What are they?
- c. Paul identifies three privileges a person receives upon professing Christ as saviour. (See Rm 10:10-11).
 - i. Name the privileges and discuss their implications in the life of a believer.
- d. Have you declared with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord” and “believed in your heart that God raised him from the dead?”
 - i. Have one or two people share testimonies.
- e. End your time together with prayers of thanksgiving to our Lord and Saviour

Optional

Was there anything not discussed that stuck out to you from the sermon?

Wrap Up and Prayer

From your discussion, what resonated with you individually or as a group? Pray for each other along with other requests.