

THE BOOK OF ROMANS
"Works and Faith Righteousness"
Romans 10:5-11

INTRODUCTION

1. The Jews were responsible to believe on Christ as Saviour notwithstanding God's Sovereign activity (9:30-33). The Gentiles saw that righteousness came by exercising faith, but the Jews stumbled at the Stone (Christ) and did not accept faith righteousness.
2. This caused Paul to again express his deep sorrow for the nation (10:1). They had failed miserably, though they were filled with works (10:2-3). Christ is the end of works (law) in order to gain righteousness by faith (10:4).
3. The proof of the above is abundantly clear in Scripture. To this Paul now turns in his argument. He argues that a gulf exists between law/grace, works/faith.

1. LAW RIGHTEOUSNESS DESCRIBED v. 5

a. By a quotation

The quote is from Leviticus 18:5. The context of that verse noted that the ordinances of Canaan were to be rejected, but God's statutes and judgements were to be heeded.

b. By an explanation

It should be noted that should it be possible to keep the 613 laws of the O.T., than one would attain life. But none have, so none obtained life (3:9-20). Moreover, the law is clearly marked out in function in Scripture. Note Gal. 3:21; 2 Cor. 3:7-9. Thus, law does not have power to give life; rather, it is a ministration of death. It was given to become a foot-servant leading to Christ (Gal. 3:24). Scripture shuts us up--let it do that (Gal. 3:27). True, God put Israel under the law for 1500 years. He knew righteousness and life come through faith in Christ only and the law is not of faith (Gal. 3:12).

2. FAITH RIGHTEOUSNESS DESCRIBED vv 6-8

a. By a quotation

The quote is from Deuteronomy 30:11-14. The Spirit used Moses to speak to Israel concerning the law. Historically and contextually, the passage is spoken before Moses went to Pisgah to die (Deut. 34:1). The point is: what will take place after Moses dies? Apparently, Israel will say--Moses is dead. All we have left is these written words given to Moses on Sinai. Our circumstances are different from those of the fathers. They saw God's presence on Sinai and heard His voice.

Who now will go up to heaven for us and make us hear the law in the same way our fathers heard. Is there some teacher somewhere whom we can send for to bring it to us or make us hear it? Moses' answer: the law is there in simple words.

b. By an explanation

Paul transfers all that Moses said to Israel about the law to Christ (Messiah). He says that like Israel in the O.T. was to be scattered because they despised His law, yet ultimately cast upon God's mercy for restoration, so now, Israel rejected Christ but in the end, cast upon His mercy, will be restored (Note: This is a national item and not individual). The need was to acknowledge that the simple "word of faith" which was being preached by Paul should be believed (1 Cor. 15:1-8).

3. FAITH RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED vv 9, 10

a. By belief

It is as if Paul now addresses a Jew and tells him what to do now. The basic issue is heart belief. This belief is not alone His birth, life, ministry, death, but His resurrection and power over death. The result of that sort of quality of belief is righteousness i.e. declared not guilty before God. This is the immediate standing of a believer before God.

b. By confession

Confession is linked with salvation (not righteousness!). Faith is directly associated with salvation four times in the N.T. (Rom. 1:16; 1 Pet. 1:5, 9, 10). It is a word which includes all that a person "in Christ" possesses and will enjoy (cf. Rom. 13:11).

CONCLUSION

Beloved, God's words are near you today, indeed, at your very mouth. Believe and be declared righteous now. Amen.