

ZEAL OF APPROVAL

Romans 10:1-8

Introduction:

- Many have a zeal for God that is mis_____ (e.g. Charlemagne, ISIS, Saul the persecutor)
- There is only one kind of zeal for God that God approves of:

Its Model – Experiential Knowledge (1,2)

- The zeal for God that most religious Jews had was NOT according to k_____ (v. 2)
 1. The Greeks had two words for knowledge:
 - a. Intellectual – knowing f_____ (everyone knows that to be gored by a bull hurts)
 - b. Experiential – knowing by ex_____ (only those gored by a bull really know how much it hurts)
 2. Religious Jews modeled their zeal for God by adhering to their t_____ or promoting their teachings
- The zeal for God that God approves must be based on knowing Him personally
 1. Jehovah's Witnesses have a zeal for God that is based on a h_____ knowledge
 - a. They boast of perfect agreement in beliefs (submitting to a system of beliefs dictated by W_____ publications) – they are sincere, but sincerely wrong
 - b. Sometime ask one if they have a personal relationship with Christ.
 2. The apostle Paul p_____ for his fellow Jews to be saved (v.1)
 - a. These were not wrote prayers that we see many r_____ vainly in our religious world (Moslems, Jews, and Christians)
 - b. These were responsive prayers arising from Paul's relationship with Christ.
 3. Many people have it backwards
 - a. Prayer is not to be the b_____ of our relationship to God
 - b. Our relationship to God is to be the basis of our prayers
 - c. All that you do must flow out of your relationship to God

Its Motive – Exalting God (3)

- The motive for the actions of the Jew was to establish their own r_____ (v. 3)
 1. They did not s_____ to God's righteousness (i.e. God's kind of righteousness)
 2. They focused on s_____ -righteousness
- What is the motive for today's religious peoples' deeds?
 1. Jehovah's Witnesses going door-to-door?
 2. Moslems praying five times per day?
 3. Religious "Christians" observing their rituals?
- What is the motive for your actions? (your motive should ultimately be to exalt or g_____ God).
 1. The decisions you make?
 2. The religious deeds that you do?
 3. The relationships that you pursue or maintain?

Its Mark – Exchanged Righteousness (4-8)

- Understanding verse 4
 1. *Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to all who believe*
 - a. There is no "the" before law in the Greek, which means that Paul is NOT referring specifically to the Law of Moses, but to r_____ law in general.

- b. The “end” (NIV – culmination) - Christ fulfilled the g_____ of legalism (attaining righteousness)
- c. This truth applies on to b_____ (those who trust in Christ as their righteousness).
- 2. Paraphrase – *The goal of the legalist is to attain righteousness; Christ is the fulfillment of that goal for all who trust in Him as their righteousness.*
- Understanding verse 5
 - 1. Paul alludes to Lev 18:5 to apply to the legalist who kept rules in order to attain righteousness. The legalist has to keep living according to their rules.
 - 2. In other words, the righteousness by works can never attain a righteous state, where righteousness by faith is instantaneous and p_____.
- Understanding verses 6-8 – righteousness that comes by faith (Paul adapts Deut 30:12-14)
 - 1. Paul first states what righteousness by faith DOES NOT say:
 - a. “Who will ascend into heaven?” (that is, to bring Christ down)
 - 1) You cannot w_____ your way to heaven!
 - 2) Christ came down from heaven to do the work for us.
 - b. Or “Who will descend into the abyss?” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).
 - 1) You cannot p_____ your way out of hell.
 - 2) Christ’s resurrection is proof of His p_____ for sin.
 - 2. Paul then states what righteousness by faith DOES say:

The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart

 - a. What word? – the word of faith which Paul was preaching or the g_____
 - b. Righteousness has always come by faith in what God says.
 - 3. Paraphrase of vv.6-8

The righteousness that is given us by faith does not say, “I have to work my way to heaven or buy my way out of hell.” Jesus did the work and made the payment. He came down from heaven, died, and rose from the dead. We attain righteousness by trusting in His work and payment. This is the gospel message.
- Therefore, an approved zeal for God is characterized by an exchanged righteousness.
 - 1. Christ traded His righteousness for our s_____
 - 2. Our sin is permanently put on Christ, and His righteousness is permanently given to us
- Application
 - 1. List some things you are zealous about (e.g. fishing, health)
 - 2. Our zeal for God should exceed our zeal for things
 - a. If it does not, it does not mean that we l_____ zeal for God.
 - b. If it does not, it only means that we are s_____ it. Let it out by meditating on the righteousness you have in Christ!