



THE TWO PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 10:1-13

Introduction: There are Only Two Kinds of Religious Systems in the World

I. Israel Sought Righteousness through Law-Keeping (v.1-5)

- A. Israel Had Zeal without Knowledge (v.2)
 - o In what ways did the Jews of Paul's day display their zealousness for God?
 - o Religious excitement, interest, activity and sincerity does not mean someone has found the truth!
- B. Israel was Ignorant of the "righteousness of God" (v.3a)
 - o Suggests the Jews were not fully aware the righteous standard God required
 - o It also means Israel was ignorant of a righteousness that comes *from* God as a gift
- C. Israel Sought to Establish Their Own Righteousness (v.3b-5)
 - o Because they did not understand that righteousness was a gift from God, they thought they could "establish their own" (v.3)
 - o But, they didn't reckon with the fact that "the person who does the commandments shall live by them" (v.5)
 - If you are going to rely on law-keeping for salvation it needs to be perfect!
 - Why is our law-keeping not enough? What do we do to make ourselves feel better about our law-keeping?
 - o They did not realize that "Christ is the end of the law" (v.4)
 - Christ is the only way to attain the status of "law-keeper"
 - When we believe, Christ's own righteousness is "imputed" to us
 - Where do the Gospels emphasize the righteousness of Christ?

II. But True Righteousness Only Comes through Faith (v.6-13)

- A. Justification by Faith is not Difficult (v.6-7)



- o You do not have to climb into the heavens to attain salvation—Christ has come down!
 - o You do not need to descend into the depths to attain it—Christ has been raised already!
- B. Justification by Faith is very Simple (v.8-11)
- o Source of Faith: “the word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (v.8)
 - o Nature of Faith: “believe in your heart” (v.9)
 - o Expression of Faith: “confess with your mouth” (v.9)
 - o Object of your Faith: “Jesus is Lord...and God raised him from the dead” (v.9)
- C. Justification by Faith is the same method of salvation for everyone (v.12-13)
- o There is not a different means of salvation for different people
 - o Thus the offer of the Gospel is for *everyone*! “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (v.12)



Discussion Groups

1. Paul reminds us that zeal or sincerity is no guarantee of truth. How does that fact help you relate to your non-Christian friends?

2. In what ways do we fall back into law-keeping as a means of relating to God? How can we keep this from happening?

3. How does the simplicity of faith encourage you today? At the same time, how does your faith match up to Paul's description of faith in v.8-11?

