

A Wrong Way to Try to Be Right With God

Romans 10:1-4

The main idea is Paul, in expressing his desire that Israel be saved, emphasizes that they have a form of eagerness for God, but have forsaken his way of righteousness in the gospel and attempted to earn righteousness through works of the law.

And what we will see is that rejecting God's Gospel as the way of obtaining right standing before God, in favor of attempting to earn righteousness through works of the law is futile and will lead to spiritual disaster and God's judgment.

- **Paul's Earnest Prayer For Israel -v 1**
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- **The Right Way to Righteousness -v 4**

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!" (Romans 11:33)

“though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. (Philippians 3:4-6)

“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment...” (Philippians 1:9)

“...Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law.” (Romans 9:31) “as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one;” (Romans 3:10) “For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.” (Romans 3:20)

But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian...” (Galatians 3:22-25)

“They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.” (Romans 9:4-5)

“...I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.” (Romans 9:2-3)

“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day.” (Acts 22:3)

For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. (14) And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. (Galatians 1:13-14)

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:20)

“And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 19:16-19)

“But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith...” (Philippians 3:7-9)

Christ’s perfect righteousness has been imputed, or credited to the believing sinner, and conversely, the believing sinner’s sin is imputed to Christ, who pays the penalty for that sin at the Cross. This is the heart of the gospel!
