

ISRAEL'S PROBLEMS.

7/14/2024 AM

INTRODUCTION:

A. Read the text: Romans 10:1-3.

B. Regarding the text:

1. A study of the Bible reveals the problems of ancient Israel.
 - 1) From the garden of Eden to the golden calf of Aaron and to the crucifixion of Jesus.
 - 2) Their foolishness is much like people today. Many today ignore God's word!
2. Paul sums up the folly of Israel in four points:

I. "ZEAL ... BUT NOT ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE"!

A. This was demonstrated by two things:

1. They rejected Christ, the apostles and their preaching (**Luke 9:22** "Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day." **Mark 2:5-7** "When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?")
2. They persecuted the church (Stephen **Acts 8:1-5**; the apostles **Acts 5:40** "And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.")

B. There are other examples of misguided zeal.

1. Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 9:1-2**; **Philippians 3:6**; **1 Timothy 1:13** "Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.")
2. Judaizing Teachers (**Acts 15:1** "And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.")
3. Peter (**Matthew 17:4-5**; **26:30-35** **Vs. 33-34** "Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.")

C. Zeal coupled with knowledge can move us to repent (Revelation 3:19** "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten, be zealous therefore, and repent.")**

II. "IGNORANT OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS".

A. The gospel reveals God's righteousness. They rejected it (Romans 1:16-17**). Therefore, I am without excuse!**

B. Ignorance caused many problems in the First Century.

1. Caused Christ to be crucified (**Acts 3:14-17**; **** 1 Corinthians 2:7-8**).

2. Caused people to ignore the God of heaven (**Acts 17:23** Worshipped idols.)
3. Caused early Christians to suffer persecution (**Acts 26:9** ; **1 Timothy 1:13** “Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious..”)

C. Many today are just as ignorant as those in days gone by!

III. “GOING ABOUT TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS”).

A. This is a natural result of being ignorant of God’s righteousness.

1. Many cultures are prone to worship something or someone.
2. And since he does not know God’s way, he will establish his own (**Acts 17:23** “For as I passed by and beheld your *devotions*...” Something worshipped.)

B. Jews sought to establish their own righteousness in several ways:

1. Outward show (**Matthew 23:5** “all their works they do for to be seen of men...”)
2. They called attention to own perceived goodness and the faults of others (**Luke 18:9** “And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others.”)
3. Exalted their own ways above God’s (**Matthew 15:1-3** Their traditions above obedience to God).
4. Making sure others saw their devotion (**Matthew 6:1-4** - **Vs. 1** “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them...”)

IV. “NOT SUBMITTED THEMSELVES UNTO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.”

A. Those bent on establishing their own righteousness will not submit to righteousness of God (Jeremiah 10:23** “It is not in men...”). They will proclaim they do not need more than themselves.**

B. The Old Testament shows the stubborn and rebellious nature of the Jews (1 Samuel 15:22-23** King Saul rebelled against God through his disobedience.).**

C. We submit to God by obeying the gospel (Galatians 3:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9** “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:”)**

V. CONCLUSION:

A. How can we avoid the folly of Israel?

1. An open heart and mind.
2. Diligent study of God’s word.

B. Are we willing to the righteousness of God? He awaits our answer.