

DON'T BE IGNORANT

ROMANS 10:4-10

Continuing with the reasons the Jewish people have largely failed to meet their Messiah. Again, most are things that every human being needs to watch out for.

1. ISRAEL WAS IGNORANT OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST

- Because of arrogant self-satisfaction and self-righteousness, the Jews were blind to the marvelous truth of the New Covenant.

PROBLEM: NOBODY IS “GOOD ENOUGH”

In other words, those who think they are already righteous and acceptable to God will be ignorant of God’s true provision for righteousness . . .

the shed blood of Christ on the cross.

- Chief example: Paul himself. **PHIL. 3:5-9**
- Jews in New Testament times sought to ***fulfill the law*** by their own efforts and thereby attain a righteousness acceptable to God—by works.

2. ISRAEL WAS IGNORANT OF THEIR OWN LAW

Sadly, everything about the Jewish religion pointed to the coming Messiah: their sacrifices, priesthood, temple services, religious festivals, and covenants.

- ***THE LAW WAS A SIGNPOST***, pointing the way to Jesus. They did not want to slow down for His grace so they raced to the works of the law.
- The law cannot give righteousness; it only leads the sinner to the Savior.

- Paul quoted from the Old Testament to prove to his readers that they did not even understand their own law.
- He begins by stating the purpose of the law and quotes **LEV. 18:5; DEUT. 30:12-14.**
- Paul quotes **JOEL 2:32** and reminds us that the Gospel is open by faith to anyone.
- This section stresses the difference between “law righteousness” and “*faith righteousness.*” The just shall live by faith! **ROM. 1:17**

3. ISRAEL WAS IGNORANT OF THE ROLE OF FAITH

Without saving faith, we are in real trouble; *law-keeping is a dead end.* (**JAMES 2:10**) Here is why:

- **First**, the man who pursues salvation by trying to keep the law will be judged on the basis effort.
- **Second**, it is impossible to keep all the law.
- **Third**, the inevitable failure of works-righteousness results in eternal damnation.

FAITH IS AN IMPERATIVE FOR SALVATION. HEB. 11:6

REAL SAVING FAITH

Paul specifies ***TWO VERY UNIQUE TRUTHS*** that must be believed in one's heart in order to be saved.

The first truth Paul speaks of is the **deep, personal, abiding conviction** that—without any reservation or qualification—will **confess Jesus as Lord**.

The second truth that must be believed in order to be saved is that **God raised Him [Jesus] from the dead**.

IT'S A MATTER OF HEART NOT JUST HEAD

It is **with the heart that man believes**, so it is with his heart that man determines his eternal destiny.

DON'T BE IGNORANT OF THIS TRUTH.

- **Homologeô**—“*confess*”—has the root meaning of speaking the same thing, of being in agreement and accord with someone.
- The person who confesses Jesus as Lord (**v. 9**) agrees with God the Father, and that confession mixed with genuine faith/trust brings *salvation*.