

***STUDYING THE BOOK OF ROMANS***  
***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

**Lesson 20 - Israel's Unbelief - [Romans 10:1-21](#)**

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

**1**Dear friends, my heart so earnestly desires and cries out for—and I pray most intensely for—my people of Israel to be saved.

<sup>2</sup>Yes, they indeed have great zeal for God, but a zeal that is not based on a right understanding of the truth.

<sup>3</sup>Because they are ignorant of God’s great plan for them to become right with Him. So instead of accepting God’s wonderful plan, they keep trying to become right with Him by their own efforts.

<sup>4</sup>But Christ has put an end to any need to try so hard to get right with God by obeying the Laws and customs of Moses. All anyone needs to do is to truly believe in Him.

***Anyone Can Be Saved***

<sup>5</sup>This is what Moses wrote about getting right with God by obeying God’s Laws:  
“The person who obeys these laws\* will live forever by doing so.” (*Lev. 18:5*)

**Romans 10:5** – “The person who obeys these laws.\*” This would mean perfect and continuous obedience.  
**Gal. 3:10; 5:2-3.**

<sup>6</sup>But right standing with God by means of faith says this: “You don’t need to ask yourself, ‘Who will go up to Heaven?’” (*Dt. 30:12*) (That is, “Who will go up to Heaven and bring the Messiah down to save us?”)

<sup>7</sup>“And don’t wonder, ‘Who will go down among the dead?’” (That is, “Who will go down among the dead and bring the Messiah up to save us?”)

<sup>8</sup>But notice what that Scripture says next: “The prescribed means by which you can be saved is with you right now. It’s in your own mouth and in your heart.” (*Dt. 30:14*) And that’s the message we preach in regard to obtaining salvation by faith. It’s this:

<sup>9</sup>If you will acknowledge and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and if you truly believe in your heart that God has indeed raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 Because it's when you are sincerely believing with your heart that you gain right standing with God. So when as a result of true heart-belief, you confess with your mouth, *this* results in salvation.

11 Because as the Scripture says,

“No one who is truly believing in Him will be disappointed, or be ashamed.”  
(*Isa. 28:16*)

12 This also applies to everyone, both to Jews and to those who are not, because we all have the same Sovereign Lord, and He richly blesses everyone who calls on Him.

13 So you see,

“Everyone who calls on Him and acknowledges Him as his Sovereign Ruler will be saved.” (*Joel 2:32*)

14 But how can they call on Him if they haven't come to believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they haven't even heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them the Great News?

15 And how can they speak about the Lord to those who need to hear unless they are sent out? That's what the Scripture is talking about which says:

“What a beautiful sight it is to see those who are going forth to preach the Great News about peace with God, who bring Great News about good things!” (*Isa. 52:7*)

16 But not everyone who has heard this Great News has been glad to hear it. Because Isaiah says,

“Lord, who has believed what we told them?” (*Isa. 53:1*)

17 So then, faith can only come by sincerely listening—And the message that is heard is the word of Christ.

18 But I ask you: Didn't they hear God's message? Of course they did. Because the Scripture says:

“The sound of their voices as they witnessed has been heard all over the world. And their message has been given wherever there are people.” (*Psa. 19:4*)

19 Again I ask you: Didn't Israel know this would happen? Yes, first of all, Moses prophesied:

“I will provoke you to jealousy by a people who are not a nation. I will make you angry by a people who have no understanding.” (*Dt. 32:21*)

**Rom. 10:19** – “Didn't Israel know this would happen?\*” In other words, *Didn't Israel know from their own Scriptures, of God's intention to include the Gentiles in His plans?* Paul then refers to some of those Scriptures.

- 20 And without hesitation Isaiah boldly reported that God said:  
“I was found by those who were not looking for Me. I revealed Myself to those who were not even asking about Me.” (*Isa. 65:1*)
- 21 But about Israel God says *through* Isaiah:  
“All day long I have stretched out My hands to you, a disobedient people who continually oppose Me.” (*Isa. 65:2*)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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235. What was Paul’s greatest desire? ([10:1](#))
236. What positive trait did Paul recognize in the Israelites? ([10:2](#))
237. What had the Israelites done instead of submitting to God’s righteousness? ([10:3-4](#))
238. What is the relationship between Christ and the Law in a person’s pursuit of righteousness? ([10:4](#))
239. How did Moses describe righteousness that comes by the Law? ([10:5](#))
240. How does righteousness produced by faith come about? ([10:6-9](#))
241. What were the simple instructions Paul gave regarding personal salvation? ([10:9-10](#))
242. What promise is given to anyone who puts his or her faith in Christ? ([10:11](#))
243. What distinctions did Paul note in the way that Jews and Gentiles obtain their salvation? ([10:12-13](#))
244. What does it take to get the message of God to someone? ([10:14-15](#))
245. How have the Israelites responded to hearing the message of God? ([10:16-18](#))
246. How did Paul answer the argument that the Jews have not had adequate opportunity to hear God’s message? ([10:18-21](#))
247. How had the response of the Gentiles to the message of God differed from the response of the Jews? ([10:18-21](#))
248. What makes it hard for Jews to believe Jesus Christ is the Messiah?
249. How can a person have great zeal for God or religious activities and yet be misguided?