

6-21-15 MESSAGE
The Paradox of Righteousness
Romans 9:30-33

Introduction:

● A paradox

1. Defined - *a statement that seems contradictory, unbelievable or absurd but that may be actually t_____ in fact.*
2. Examples
 - a. Women, you can't live w_____ them, you can't live w_____ them.
 - b. It takes a g_____ amount of knowledge to know just how l_____ you know

● Here is a paraphrase of the paradox presented in our Bible text:

*if you work to be righteous, you will never become righteous;
but if you don't work to be righteous you can obtain it.*

1. T_____ this paradox in your heart
2. T_____ to God about how this relates to you.
3. T_____ God for giving you righteousness

Righteousness Can Never Be Obtained By Works (31,32)

● Setting the context – Paul is still anticipating a person objecting to the idea that God c_____ whom He to save.

1. Paul has given many paradoxes in chapter 9:
 - a. Verse 6 – *they are not all I _____ who are descended from Israel.*
 - b. Verse 7 – *they are not all c_____ of Abraham just because they are his descendants.*
 - c. Verse 25 – *I will call those who were not My people, My p_____* (refers to Gentiles or non-Jews)
2. The objection Paul anticipates paraphrased:
What? Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness attained it, but Israel who pursued a law of righteousness did not?
3. In the book of Romans, Paul distinguishes between the Law of Moses and man-made religious laws.
 - a. Paul puts the GREEK word “the” before the word “law” whenever referring to the Law of Moses.
 - b. Paul omits the GREEK word “the” before the word “law” whenever referring to man-made religious laws.
 - c. Our E_____ translations are inconsistent (consult a Greek Interlinear – see back table)

● Traditional Jews worked at keeping man-made religious rules, but Jesus criticized them for it as making them h_____

1. Mark 7:11-13 – many used the man-made law of Corban to dishonor their p_____
2. Matt 12:10-14 – the leaders plotted to d_____ Jesus for healing on the Sabbath, instead of rejoicing in the miracle.

● Many of today's “religious” Christians make the same mistake

1. Their thinking
 - a. Point at their correct affiliation with a religious g_____

- b. Point at their g_____ in character and deeds
2. God's word – self-righteousness is like a _____ rag to God (Is 64:6).
 - a. Self-righteousness removes the need for J_____
 - b. Self-righteousness causes people to s_____ over Jesus.
3. Those who work to be righteous in God's sight will never obtain it!

Righteousness Can Only Be Obtained By Faith (30,33)

●The definition of faith

1. Many wrongly define faith as accepting the f_____ about Jesus (He is God in the flesh, died for sins, resurrected)
 - a. The d_____ believes this
 - b. Faith may start with the facts, but it does not end there.
2. The Greek word translated as faith means to place one's c_____ in, to rely upon, to trust in.

●The object of faith

1. Faith is not based on our a_____ to trust
 - a. Would you trust the glass lookout at the Grand Canyon to hold you up?
 - b. Is it possible for the glass lookout to collapse?
2. Faith is based on the ability of whom we trust
 - a. Verse 33 – those who believe in (trust) Jesus will NOT be d_____
 - b. Jesus cannot f_____; He is the c_____ of a unshakeable foundation (Is 28:16)

●Therefore, righteousness before God can only be attained by trusting Jesus to be our righteousness (2 Cor 5:21; I Cor 1:30)

Conclusion: - do the three responses in the introduction.