

## INTRODUCTION

- 1 Bible has much to say about God having final power over all that happens here on earth
- 2 On a recent holiday I had a problem with a tooth and through a freak accident I slipped and damaged my upper left leg for several weeks

### SLIDE 1 - ROMANS 8:28

- 3 **Romans 8:28 “And we know in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose”**
- 4 God didn’t cause these 2 things to happen, but did allow them - still learning reasons why!
- 5 God’s sovereign power is a real mystery and Romans 9 and 10 give us some understanding
- 6 Many things happen in our lives that help us to trust God more and more as He has an answer
- 7 Will only summarise the main things in Romans 9, and concentrate in more depth on Rom. 10

## I 9:1-31 God’s sovereign choice and mercy

### A 9:1-5 Paul really struggles with the unbelief of the Jews and why this has happened

- 1 How can God’s chosen nation Israel, with 8 very special privileges, have rejected their own Messiah, promised, prophesied and spoken about throughout the Old Testament??
- 2 He describes these 8 privileges in 9:4-5, then starts to ask questions, followed by answers
- 3 *Many of us Christians often ask why some of our loved ones believe, but others don’t!!!*

### B 9:6-29 Three main sets of related questions and some explanations

- 1 9:6-13 “**Has God’s word failed?**” – No, God has kept His promises!!  
God did not choose all the descendants of Abraham, but certain ones through the line of Isaac and Jacob, NOT Ishmael or Esau –then thru’ 1 tribe of Jacob-Judah- David- Solomon
- 2 9:14-18 “**Is God unjust to exercise his sovereign choice in this way?**” –Of course not!!”
  - a 9:15 Does not depend on man’s desire or work, but depends completely on God’s mercy
  - b In Exodus God chose to show His power in the life of Pharaoh and the Egyptian people after the king had hardened his heart and refused to let Israel go and worship their God
- 3 9:19-29 “**Why does God still blame us, for who can resist His will?**” – Who are you to answer back to God, our Creator (9:20)? –
  - a 9:21 Like a potter who can make what he likes without first asking the pot, so people have no right to tell God how to fulfill His perfect plan and purposes
  - b SO Paul quotes from a number of OT prophecies (Hosea, Isaiah) to support this teaching

### SLIDE 2 - ROMANS 9:27

- c 9:27 Quoting from **Isaiah 10:22 “Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand of the sea, only the remnant will be saved”**
  - d *Is true to say that only a remnant of Gentiles have repented and believed over centuries*  
Matthew 7:13-14

### C 9:30-33 What is Paul’s conclusion about the unbelief of the majority of the Jews?

- 1 Christian church has a majority of Gentile believers, who accepted God’s standards of **righteousness by faith**, by repenting, believing and receiving Jesus into their lives.
- 2 Whereas most Jews stumbled over the “**stone**” God had laid – Lord Jesus – Isaiah 28:16
- 3 Instead of seeking to be right with God by faith, they tried to achieve acceptance with God by following a law of being right with God through their own works and so failed

### SLIDE 3 – SUMMARY OF a and b BELOW

- a **Acceptance of Gentiles** comes from the sovereign mercy of God and faith
- b **Rejection of Israel** comes from their own rebellion against God and works of the law

## II 10:1-21 Mankind’s Privileges and Responsibilities

### A 10:1-4 Israel did not understand the righteousness of God

- II A** 1 10:1 Paul's great desire and prayer to God was that his Israelite fellow citizens might believe in Jesus and be saved from God's judgement on their sin, rebellion against Him  
2 10:2 He knew they were very zealous for God, wanted to serve Him with all their strength  
3 Unfortunately their zeal was not based on an understanding as to how they could serve the living God in the world in a way that would please Him – leads to fanaticism  
4 Paul knew this personally for himself because he had been zealous for God before the Lord Jesus revealed Himself to Saul (later Paul) on the road to Damascus – **Acts 9**  
5 In the 21<sup>st</sup> century we hear about many fanatics following their man-made religion, who are doing many terrible things to people in the name of their religion, but their zeal is not based on a true understanding of the true God and His right standards/righteousness  
**eg Ullah in the Koran is not the same person as the God of the Bible, whose nature and character is different – love, forgiveness etc.**  
6 10:3 Instead of believing that the only way to be acceptable to God was through repentance and faith in Jesus, they decided to work out their own way of making themselves acceptable to God thus rejecting God's offer of grace

**SLIDE 4 – ROMANS 10:3**

- 7 10:4 *The Jews failed to understand that Jesus fulfilled the law in every way through His death and resurrection*

**SLIDE 5 ROMANS 10:4**

- 8 This is not just a problem for Jews, but many people who claim to be Christian also try to work out their own way of making themselves acceptable to God –  
**a Often is a problem because this is what they have been taught as they were growing up in a church**  
**b I was taught that as long as you were baptized, confirmed and went to communion regularly, this made you a Christian**  
**c Then must try and live for God in your own strength, which is impossible because we are all sinful/selfcentred -Can only live for Jesus thru' help of God, Holy Spirit**  
**d I believed and practiced that for years, but had no relationship with God through the Lord Jesus – so like Jews it was by works and not faith that I tried to be right with God**  
**e How about you? – are you trying to do your own thing eg Bob from Cape York trip good things balanced off against the bad- hope I make it!!!- based on man's logic, not God's wisdom**

**B 10:5-13 How can someone get right with God?**

- 1 Romans has much to say about understanding and receiving the Lord Jesus into one's life, having sins forgiven, and being reconciled to God  
2 Central to the gospel message is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God  
3 Bible teaches every single person is born naturally sinful, self-centred, rebels against God, not wanting God to interfere in their lives.  
4 Every single person is under God's judgement.  
5 Nothing anyone can do to escape God's judgement through any work or effort in one's own strength – **eg Requirements for joining a church like baptism, confirmation, attending Lord's supper, reading the Bible, praying, giving don't make one acceptable to God**  
**eg Movie called The Mission – one guy murdered someone- felt best solution to make up for it was to inflict pain on himself so would become acceptable to God- climbed up waterfall with great pack on his back to pay the price for his sin Failed to impress God**  
6 Because God loves each one of us, His plan before He created this world, was to send His one and only perfect Son in the fullness of time, to pay the punishment for every single

person's sin and rebellion against God

7 He died the death everyone deserves by dying in their place as their perfect substitute

**SLIDES 6, 7 AND 8 - ROMANS 10:10 SUMMARY**

8 **10:10** Only way to be saved from God's judgement is to confess this with your mouth and believe in your heart that God has accepted you because

**a** You are a sinner who deserves God's judgement for rebelling against Him,

**b** There is not one single thing you/I can do in your own strength and ability to make yourself acceptable to God

**c** But believe that Jesus died the death you deserve in your place as your substitute

**d** He paid the price for your sin, past, present and future

**e** Ask Jesus into your life by repenting and believing and receiving Him into your life

9 **10:9 a Confess** this publically to everyone with your mouth that Jesus is Lord

**b** Have asked Him to become the Lord of your life

**c** To rule and direct your life from this point on

**d** Believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, never to die again, then

**e** You will be saved from God's judgement on your natural sin/rebellion against Him

10 **10:10 a** It is with your **heart** that you believe and are justified or accepted by God, for what Jesus has done for you

**b** It is with your **mouth** that you confess and are saved from God's judgement

11 **10:11 Anyone** who trusts in the person of Jesus, will never be ashamed to follow Him  
**eg** Polycarp of Smyrna

12 **10:12** Does not matter whether you are a Jew, Gentile, Korean, Sri Lankan will be greatly blessed by the Lord Jesus, who is the same Lord of all peoples of the world

13 **10:13 Everyone** who calls on the name of the Lord as I have outlined above will be saved from God's judgement –**No exceptions** –If Saul of Tarsus could be saved, anyone can be!!

**14 *This is by far the biggest difference between Christianity and any other world religion- Jesus is God's one and only Son, who died on the cross as a perfect sacrifice to offer forgiveness of sin to everyone who believes - no other religion can make this offer.***

**II C 10:13-15 Why evangelism must take place**

1 These verses are very important in this chapter as they are stated negatively to show how essential it is to tell everyone about the good news of the Lord Jesus

**SLIDES 9 AND 10 – ROMANS 10:13-15**

**a 10:13 Everyone** who calls on the Lord will be saved from God's judgement

**b 10:14** How can they **call** on Jesus, the one they have **not believed in**, in a meaningful way

**c 10:14** How can they **believe** in Jesus, of whom they have not **heard** – God uses many ways of doing this **eg** The Passion of the Christ movie in Middle East, radio broadcasts

**d 10:14** How can they **hear** without someone **preaching** to them about the death and resurrection of Jesus **eg** A in the Middle East

**e 10:15** How can they **preach** unless God has **sent** them preachers or witnesses

**f 10:15** Paul quotes from **Isaiah 52:7** "**How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news**" – To hear the gospel is the greatest news in the world - Mseleni, Harold Stevens and movie with this title

2 **Romans 9** talks about God's sovereign choice and mercy

3 Whereas **Romans 10** talks about mankind's responsibility to

**a** Hear the gospel message **b** Respond to it in repentance and faith **c** Tell others about it

**4 But must never forget that**

- a God is the One who has provided the way for each of us to be reconciled to Himself through the death and resurrection of Jesus, His perfect Son
  - b God, the Holy Spirit is the One who opens up a person's heart and mind to respond to the gospel message – **not the human messenger**, which may be you!!
- 5 Once we receive Jesus into our lives and trust Him as our personal savior, we become His ambassadors with the job of telling others about Jesus, to help them escape God's judgement

**SLIDE 11 – 10:13-15 BRIEF SUMMARY**

- 6 To summarise **Romans 10:13-15** in a brief way
- a Lord Jesus **sends** Christian believers to preach and witness to others
  - b These preachers and witnesses **preach** and/or **share** with others,
  - c People **hear** the good news
  - d Some hearers **believe**
  - e These new believers **call** to God
  - f Those who call are **saved from** God's judgement
  - g They become Christian believers, part of God's family and members of the church

**D 10:16-21 Reasons for Israel's unbelief**

- 1 **10:16** How can the unbelief of Israel be explained? – Isaiah 53:1 foretold this “**Lord, who has believed our message**”? – only a small number of Abraham's descendants have responded
- 2 **10:17** goes back to **10:14** with 3 stages instead of 5
- a Faith comes from hearing the message
  - b The message is heard through the word of Christ, which is central to the message
  - c Preaching leads to hearing the message and believing, repenting and receiving Jesus
- 3 Why then have the Israelites not believed ?
- a **10:18** Did they not hear the message? – Of course they did, from Psalm 19
  - b **10:19-20** Did they not understand the message? – The Gentiles **did** understand, but Israel **did not** understand - Deuteronomy 32:21; Isaiah 65:1
  - c **10:21** God actively held out His hands all day long to a disobedient and obstinate people
- 4 Israel has not believed due to their disobedience and rejection of God's way - **they knew best!**
- 5 Notice why Paul shows the importance of studying the Old Testament to understand The New Testament

**III What lessons can we learn from Romans 9 and 10?**

- 1 For anyone who has not yet repented and believed, God invites you to take that step today, have your sins forgiven, be reconciled to God, let Jesus begin to rule your life
- 2 **Do not be like Israel, whom God blessed, but they refused to believe**
- 3 Matthew 28:18-20 commands **every Christian** to make disciples of all nations
- 4 Acts 1:8 states very clearly that every born-again Christian has a responsibility to bear witness to those who do not believe by telling them, who the Lord Jesus is, and what he has done for all people through His death and resurrection
- 5 **Connect** **9** a **Pray** for your neighbours **b Connect** with them  
c **Expect** God to work in their lives
- 6 **Evangelism changes converts into people of God and brings glory to God**