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Why Good People Won't Go to Heaven • Part 1

Lesson 20 • Romans 10:1-4

Where Are We In Romans 9-11?

| The Mystery of God's Majestic Mission of Mercy | | | |
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| TOPICS | CHAPTER 9 | CHAPTER 10 | CHAPTER 11 |
| God | His Merciful Majesty | His Missional Message | His Merciful Mystery |
| Focus | Divine Sovereignty | Human Responsibility | Glorious Solidarity |
| Israel | Israel's Past Election | Israel's Present Rejection | Israel's Future Salvation |
| Questions & Objections | <i>Has God's Promises Failed? Is God's Unconditional Election Fair? Why Does God Still Find Fault? Is There Any Reason for Faith?</i> | <i>How Did Pagan Gentiles Receive What Was Promised to Chosen Israel? How Did Zealous Israel Miss Out?</i> | <i>Is God's Rejection of Israel Total & Final? Is There No Hope for Israel's Hard Heart? Who Can Ever Figure All This Out?</i> |
| Paul | His Personal Pain over Israel <i>Heavy Burden (9:1-5)</i> | His Passionate Prayer for Israel <i>Heart Belief (10:1)</i> | His Positive Proof to Israel <i>Hope-filled Blessings (11:1)</i> |
| Key | God's Sovereign Majesty <i>in Election</i> | God's Sending Mission <i>in Proclamation</i> | God's Saving Mercy <i>in Salvation</i> |

Two Observations about Going to Heaven

Observation #1 NOT EVERYONE is going to heaven.

"Wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." ~Jesus, Matthew 7:13-14

Observation #2 Most people believe that GOOD PEOPLE go to heaven.

Five Reasons Why Good People Won't Go to Heaven

#1 BEING RELIGIOUS is not good enough. (10:1)

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.

#2 **BEING ZEALOUS is not good enough.** (10:2-3a)

For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God...

- Zeal without knowledge lacks **PERSONAL EXPERIENCE** of the righteousness of God = *God's way of making people right with Himself and good enough to go to heaven.* *Matthew 23:15*

- Zeal without knowledge leads to **PRIDEFUL EXTREMES** that are anything but good.

1) Extreme **PRIDE** versus humility before God and toward others. *Luke 18:10-14*

2) Extreme **CRITICISM** versus mercy toward others. *Luke 5:30-38*

3) Extreme **HATE** versus love for those who differ from you. *Acts 3:12-15; 7:51-8:3; 22:1-8, 16-23*

- Zeal without knowledge is due to...

1) Being **spiritually IGNORANT** of God's way of making people right with Himself and others.

The Righteousness of God involves...

God's **standard** for **judging** whether people are right with Him and others. (= Judging who is right!)

God's **saving activity** in **declaring** sinners right with Him in Christ. (= Declaring who is right!)

God's **standing** of **being** right with Him that He gives as a free gift by faith. (= Being right!)

2) Being **spiritually DECEIVED** about God's way of making people right and choosing to disregard it, reject it and even rebel against it. *Acts 3:12-19; Ephesians 4:17-19; 1Peter 1:14-15*

- Zeal without knowledge may be **sincere** and even appear **spiritual**, but it is still not good enough.

NEXT WEEK

Three MORE Reasons Why Good People Won't GO to Heaven