

“Righteousness By Faith”

A Study of the Book of Romans

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Key Truth: Paul uses the example of the Israelites and the Gentiles to show that faith in God’s promises is the true assurance of righteousness and the true pathway to success.

The Israelites in Isaiah’s day had often a wrong view of success. They’d sinned grievously, disregarded God’s Law, killed God’s prophets, yet because they enjoyed God’s blessings (see Romans 9:4-5), they believed they were safe. But, Isaiah prophesied to the northern kingdom of Israel that destruction was on its way via the Assyrians (see Romans 9:28). Even so, they continued to rely on their status as God’s chosen ones, assuming success was assured. The assumption is: if we just do *this*, or have this *thing*, we’ll be successful. That’s not only wrong, it’s also deadly. As Christians, we have a different standard of success: God’s righteousness, which not only shows God’s judgment, but also leads us to rely on his mercy.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 9:27-33** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled “**Righteousness By Faith.**”

DIG IN

1. **A Prophetic Principle: God is right both to Destroy and to Preserve His People.** (Romans 9:27-29)

Read Isaiah 10:1-4, 22-23 and Isaiah 1:9: What was Israel doing that prompted God’s righteous judgment? What are people doing today that warrants God’s judgment?

In what ways does God show his mercy toward Israel by leaving them a remnant?

In what ways do children represent God’s mercy upon mankind?

In what ways does Israel’s judgment open the door for God to bless “all the families of the earth” (Genesis 12:3)?

2. **A Theological Principle: God’s righteousness is not obtained by Works but is received by Faith.** (Romans 9:30-33)

In what ways is it ironic that the Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it? How?

In what ways is God’s righteousness in the gospel a stumbling stone to many? What does it take to avoid “tripping” over this stone (see 1 Corinthians 1:21-23 and 1 Peter 2:6-8)?

In what specific ways would faith lead to greater assurance of salvation and true success?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?