**‘God’s Glorious Gospel: The Righteousness God Requires’**

**Message # 58 – ‘Stone, Stumbling and Shame’**

**July 23rd, 2017**

**Text: Rom. 9:30-33**

Keith M. Doyle, Lead Pastor

**I. Summary:**

**1. Section #1: The Righteousness God Requires (Chap.1:1-3:20)**

* Romans 3:9-22 – **Summary:** Religious ‘Outsiders’ and ‘Insiders’ are all Under Sin (v.9)
* **Theme: God's Holiness In Condemning Sin**

**2. Section #2: The Righteousness Christ Provides (Chap.3:21-6:23)**

* So if there is NO human solution (Chap.3-5) – God has a solution!
* **Theme: God’s Grace in Justifying Sinners**

**3. Section #3: The Righteousness the Spirit Produces (Chap.7:1-8:39)**

* This new union has a ‘new way’ of living, ***‘…new way of the Spirit’*** (7:6)
* **Theme: God’s Power in Sanctifying Believers**

**4. Section #4: God’s Righteousness in Salvation (Chap.9-11)**

* Have God’s promises to save failed if there is rampant unbelief?
* **Framing the Text**
	+ 9:1-5 – The privileged position of the Jewish people…but their present ‘lost-ness’
	+ 9:6-13 – Ok, so has God’s Word then failed? By ‘passing over’ some?
	+ 9:14-18 - Has God been unfair?
	+ 9:19-33 – God’s in control - Israel failed…the Gentiles are brought in

**5. Interrogative Question:**

* + **Illus. God’s way of righteousness vs everything else c/f Matt. 7:24-27**
	+ **Q.  *Why do people reject God’s salvation?***
	+ A few reasons
		- It’s weak – I don’t need it
		- It’s foolish and unscientific – I don’t like it
		- It’s offensive – I don’t accept it
	+ The unbelief of Israel was typical of all human unbelief – a pride-filled, self-salvation project
	+ My aim is to show you what Paul says about the righteousness of God that comes only by faith in Jesus
1. **Righteousness Pursued, *‘..they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works…’* (30,31)**
	1. **Fundamental Flaw (30)**
	* ***‘What shall we say then?’* (30)** – transitional, it reminds and draws us
	* Key question of Romans 9
	* The problem…morality and religiosity are ‘cloaks’ of self-righteousness effort
	1. **Jewish Failure and Gentile Grace**
	* **Illus.** A life of diligent effort vs. a thief on a cross

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	1. **Jewish Failure and Gentile Grace**
	* **Illus.** A life of diligent effort vs. a thief on a cross
	* An unexpected turn(30,31), they did not attain it – having brazenly ‘attempted’ it c/f 2:17,18
	* Arrogance: ‘We are closer to God’ – their ‘failure’ was not seeing their ‘failure’
	* Conclusion: The Jews sought it…didn’t get it; the Gentiles didn’t seek it and received it
2. **Righteousness Provided, *‘…they stumbled over the stumbling stone…whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame’’* (32,33)**
	1. **Mad or Glad (32)**
	* No neutrality with Jesus and God’s way of salvation
	* ***‘Why did the Jews fail to attain salvation?’*** (32) – They pursued it by works
	1. **‘Stumbling’ or ‘no shame’ (33)**
	* The ‘stone’ theme in Scripture…Paul combines parts of Isa.28:16; 8:14
	* Important notes:
		+ God’s sovereignty puts the ‘stumbling stone’ in Israel
		+ Paul shows us how those two texts point to Christ (fulfilled in Him)
		+ Faith that attains to righteousness IS faith is Jesus, the ‘Stone’
	* How is Jesus a ***‘stumbling stone’*** to unbelievers?
	* A crucified Savior c/f 1 Cor.1:18-31, especially 1 Cor.1:23
	* A ‘lowly’ Christ (Boice)
	* A need for mercy - A sin-crushing, pride-smashing reality (1 Cor.1:29)
	* Robert Haldane quote, ‘***A free salvation becomes an offense to men…’***
	* It is received by Faith - No boasting - The ‘Cornerstone’ (capstone) c/f Ps. 118:22
	* These are the ‘stumbling stones’ ***- ‘Any plan of salvation which gives no offense to self-righteous men, is most certainly not from God.’*** *-* C. Simeon
	1. **To Approach God, by faith in Jesus = Perfect Righteousness**
	* Righteousness four times in this text (c/f 1:17) and concludes (c/f Rom.3:21,22)
	* Renounce…
	* Receive (substitutionary death for sinners), ***’…not be put to shame’*** (33)with God…there may be ‘shame’ with men

1. **Application:**
	1. **God Rescues Us**
	* Calvin quote,*‘But how they stumble at Christ, who trust in their works…’*
	1. **God Remakes Us**
	* **Illus.** Henry Moorehouse ***‘It’s a much better pitcher than we had before – in fact it’s a perfect one’***
	* An unexpected turn(30,31), they did not attain it – having brazenly ‘attempted’ it c/f 2:17,18
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