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

**Message #59 – ‘Prayer and Preaching: God’s Tools in Conversion’**

**July 30th, 2017**

**Text: Rom. 10:1-4**

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 (10)**
  + 10:1-4, Exposure of Error
  + 10:5-14, Exposition of Truth
  + 10:14-21, Expression of Faith

**5. Interrogative Question:**

* + ***Illus. Stephen and Saul, ‘And Saul approved of his execution’*** *(Acts 8:1; Gal.1:13,14)‘Enthusiastically wrong’! Ever been like that?*
  + *What’s Paul’s answer? It might surprise you…*
  + **Q.  *What role does prayer have in the salvation of the lost?***
  + My aim is to show you what Paul says about how God accomplishes His will through the means of prayer and preaching (the Word) to save lost people

1. **A Saving Work, *‘…my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved…’* (1)**
   1. **Context**
   * From 9 to 10 – After teaching God’s sovereignty in salvation…
   * Paul doesn’t ‘write them off’; Key question of Romans 9
   * Is prayer then not presumptuous? **Illus.** John Murray quote
   * Ordained intercession
   1. **Compassion, *‘heart’s desire…may be saved’*** (1)
   * The ‘heart’ of his prayer
     + c/f Rom.9:1-5, ***‘For I could wish that I myself were accursed…’***
     + We are to pray about many things (Jn.16; Matt.5,6; I Tim 2)
     + c/f Matt.16:26, ***‘For what will it profit a man…’***

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     + c/f Matt.16:26, ***‘For what will it profit a man…’***
     + Praying biblically…thinking biblically
   * The ‘goal’ of his prayer
     + Context: That people would see the impossibility of salvation through self-effort
     + That they ***‘may be saved’;* Apply:** Expectations and answers to prayer
   * Practical thoughts
     + God’s work in salvation does not diminish our fervency, but intensifies it!
     + Seemingly ‘unanswered’ prayer may serve to grow our compassion for the lost (Paul in v.1)
     + Don’t’ assume ‘religious’ or ‘good’ people you know are ok (c/f Jn.3:3)
     + Pray for the conversion of your enemies and those who have been unkind to you (c/f Matt. 5:44 – counter natural)
2. **A Spiritual Work, *‘…they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge…’* (2-4)** 
   1. **Culpable (‘*righteousness*’ 3 times, 3)…’Why’ they stumbled…(9:32,33)**
   * They didn’t ‘know’ of the righteousness of God, ***‘but not according to knowledge’*** (3)
   * They sought it ‘on their own’, ***‘seeking to establish’*** (3)
   * They rejected His rule and reign, ***‘did not submit to God’s righteousness’*** (3)
   1. **Conviction (2,4)**
   * Christ, Paul says is, ***‘the end of the law of righteousness’*** (4)

* He ‘terminated’ it and He ‘completes it’; Errors of Israel and the implications…result?
  + Back to v.2, ***‘they have a zeal for God…’***
  + Paul is speaking from his own zeal (‘***for God’***, c/f Phil.3:4-7; Gal.1:13,14)
  + This ‘shaped’ his prayer for them, ***‘according the knowledge…for everyone who believes’*** (2,4) ie. Code language for the smashing of the barrier between Jew and Gentile
  1. **Apply:** Through preaching/teaching (the Word) and prayer Paul believed people would be converted and we should too
     + - Ministry and prayer, ***‘…according to knowledge’*** (c/f 2 Cor.4:4)
* Missions and prayer, ***‘…for everyone who believes’***
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