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By Dan Maines

Romans 10

Romans 10:1

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

† Paul begins with his longing for Israel's salvation. Though they had zeal, they rejected Christ. His prayer echoes Moses and the prophets who pleaded for Israel's repentance.

† Josephus (Wars 6.5.4) describes the tragic blindness of Israel leading to destruction, aligning with Paul's lament.

Romans 10:2

For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

† Zeal without truth is deadly. Israel's zeal for the Law blinded them to Christ.

† Philo often praised Jewish zeal for the Law, but Paul shows zeal without Christ is ignorance.

Romans 10:3

For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

† Israel pursued self-righteousness through Law-keeping, refusing God's righteousness in Christ.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (CD 20.2) record sects boasting in their own works. Paul exposes this as self-righteousness.

Romans 10:4

For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

† Christ is the goal and fulfillment of the Law. Righteousness comes through faith in Him, not Law.

† Origen explained that Christ is the telos, the completion of the Law, bringing it to its intended fulfillment.

Romans 10:5

For Moses writes of the righteousness that is based on the Law, that the person who performs them will live by them.

† Paul cites Leviticus 18:5. The Law promised life for perfect obedience, but none attained it.

Romans 10:6-8

But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will go up into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down), or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" that is, the word of faith which we are preaching.

† Paul quotes Deuteronomy 30:12-14. The word is near, not far. Christ has already come and risen. Righteousness is accessible through faith.

† Futurists misplace this nearness into a distant age, but Paul insists it was already present.

Romans 10:9-10

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

† Salvation comes through faith and confession of Christ as Lord. It is not about works of Law but trust in the risen Christ.

† Early Christians boldly confessed Christ before hostile rulers, fulfilling this text. Tacitus (Annals 15.44) shows their willingness to die rather than deny Him.

Romans 10:11

For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame."

† Quoting Isaiah 28:16 again, Paul assures that faith in Christ secures covenant honor, not shame.

Romans 10:12-13

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

† The covenant barrier is removed. Jew and Gentile share the same Lord. Joel 2:32 promised salvation to all who call on Him. Paul applies this universally.

Romans 10:14-15

How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? But how are they to preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!"

† The chain of salvation is clear: sending, preaching, hearing, believing, calling. Isaiah 52:7 is applied to the gospel messengers.

† Eusebius records how the apostles went into all nations, fulfilling this prophecy.

Romans 10:16-17

However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

† Many rejected the gospel, just as Isaiah foretold. Faith comes by hearing Christ's word, not by works.

Romans 10:18

But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? On the

contrary: "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."

† Quoting Psalm 19:4, Paul declares the gospel had gone forth widely in his generation. This fulfills the Great Commission.

Romans 10:19-20

But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says, "I will make you jealous with those who are not a nation, with a foolish nation I will anger you." And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I was found by those who did not seek Me, I revealed Myself to those who did not ask for Me."

† Moses (Deuteronomy 32:21) and Isaiah (Isaiah 65:1) predicted Gentile inclusion and Israel's jealousy. This was being fulfilled in Paul's ministry.

Romans 10:21

But as for Israel, He says, "I have spread out My hands all day long to a disobedient and obstinate people."

† Isaiah 65:2 described Israel's stubbornness. God's patience was great, but their rejection brought judgment.

How it applies to us today

† Zeal without truth still leads to ruin. Many today pursue religion without Christ.

† Righteousness is by faith, not works. The gospel is near and accessible.

† The mission of preaching remains vital. People cannot believe without hearing the word of Christ.

† God's promises are universal. Jew and Gentile alike are included in one body.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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- † Josephus, Wars 6.5.4 – Israel's blindness leading to destruction
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- † Tacitus, Annals 15.44 – Christians confessing Christ before rulers
- † Isaiah 28:16 – Faith prevents shame
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- † Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5 – Apostles preaching to the nations
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