

SOMETHING WE WEREN'T EXPECTING

Romans 9:30-33

“You’re going to get something you’re not expecting!”

How does *gospel* affect Israel & God’s promise to His people?

Relationship of Israel to God's plan *IN PAST* 9

Israel lost it; they thought they had it made!

They tried to earn acceptance by God, living by rules

Jews never understood we *can't* live holy life.

GOD'S MERCY 9:14-29

14-21 God has Creator’s rights: mercy on some; hardens others

God doesn't condemn people who deserve to be saved; God saves people who deserve to be condemned because of His mercy!

9:25-29 God’s shows mercy 2 ways:

Neither works like Israel expected!

1. God shows mercy to pagans **25-26** *“As he says in Hosea: “I will call them ‘my people’ who are not my people; & I will call her ‘my loved one’ who is not my loved one,”²⁶ & “It will happen that in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’”*

Jews never expected God to save pagans!

Religious people don’t expect God to reach out to sinners!

God shows mercy by making us His people.

God transforms *pagans* into His people—that’s **MERCY!**

2. God’s shows mercy to Jews **27-29** *“Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved.²⁸ For the Lord will*

carry out his sentence on earth with speed & finality.”²⁹ As Isaiah said previously: “Unless the Lord Almighty had left us descendants, we would’ve become like Sodom, we would’ve been like Gomorrah.”

Jews thought God will save ALL Jewish people

–if you’re Abraham’s seed, you have it made!

Religious people expect God to treat *religious* people well

Jews deserve God’s judgment too!

ALL religious people deserve judgment—never good enough!

God shows *mercy* by saving a remnant, though they deserve judgment—didn’t save *ALL*; He saves a *remnant*

ISRAEL'S SEARCH 9:30-33 Summary of past

In spite of Israel’s pursuit, they never found what they’re looking for. They got tripped up along the way!

Israel’s history *affirms* gospel: **salvation by faith alone!**

Righteousness God provides comes by trusting Jesus.

[What happened to pagans?] 30 “What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is **by faith**!”

We pagans: Did not pursue righteousness

But we did obtain righteousness [when least expected] because we came **by faith**!

Not because we’re seeking righteousness; but trusting Christ.

[What happened to Israel?] 31-32a “Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, hasn’t attained it. ³²Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works.”

Jews: Pursue a law to make them righteous

Didn't succeed in attaining that righteousness

Righteousness comes from God—if they're pursuing righteousness, they'd turn to God, the source of righteousness.

Their loyalty—what they're enthusiastic about: the law.

They miss pt: to obtain righteousness we must pursue God!

Rom. 3—*No one* seeks God—*No one* does good

No one pursues righteousness! So they didn't find it!

**Because they didn't pursue it by faith
they pursued it by works**

People who look for *code* to make them righteous,
never find a **code** that can do it!

[On other hand...]

WE PAGANS HAD NOTHING TO LOSE!

Olympics figure skater—**Sarah Hughes** had **nothing to lose**.

SLC—tragic start—in 4th place—went for triple jumps (4th => 1st)

Others were tense; she decided to enjoy competition.

We pagans never tried to earn salvation

Though we weren't looking for it—didn't expect it— when we heard of salvation by faith, many recognized our need & **trusted** God's gracious offer.

We attained righteousness Jews seek—by faith

ISRAEL LOST IT ALL!

They considered themselves self-sufficient to fulfill it.

“Just tell us the rules; we’ll do it!”

They tried to get it by their efforts to live by rules. They trust themselves. They thought they’re pretty good!

They couldn’t get it that way 31-32a

[Max Anders:] Like gold miner with right prospecting tools, laboring diligently, looking for gold, finding nothing.

Along comes lazy, drunken bum, stubs his toe on rock on trail, turns out to be part of mother lode, makes him rich.

One, searching for everything, found nothing.

Other, searching for nothing, found everything!!!

Jewish people didn’t find righteousness they’re seeking.

Didn't recognize our inability to obey it.

Didn't receive righteousness God wants to *GIVE* us!

Israel was good; they’re religious—but ***not good enough!***

Israel stumbled over biggest obstacle

-the hardest rock on trail to eternal life:

They thought they could earn it! **9:32b-33** *“They stumbled over the stumbling stone. ³³As it’s written: “See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble & a rock that makes them fall, & the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”*

A walker focusing on goal—doesn’t see rock; trips over it.

Instead of *focusing* on rock God set up, they *trip over Him*
 He's *foundation*; He became an *obstacle!*

They were to trust the LORD; NOT themselves!

They trip & fall when they put confidence in themselves!

Biggest stumbling block for Israel—as for us—to acknowledge we
 can't save ourselves.

People get tripped up by gospel—we can't admit we need HIM!

Christ has *already* paid full price for our salvation.

When we trust Him, we'll never again fall short;

Substitute *any* religious system.

Israel fell short; thought they could attain it themselves!

***All man's religions produce same result—we trip over God's
 provision.* This is what makes gospel different!**

We must come to God by faith in Christ alone!

Religious people never get what we expect

—we get what we least expect!

In Christ, God gives us what we aren't expecting!

It doesn't matter whether we're religious or pagan!

Only way to receive eternal life is by trusting Christ alone!

If we've been active church members for 50 years...

If you've never stepped inside a church until this a.m...

If you're child, student, parent, grandparent

—professional, salesperson, factory worker, or janitor!

We *all* must come to God trusting His Son;

receive His gift of eternal life!

John 14:6 *"I am THE way, & the truth, & the life, no one comes to the Father, except through ME!"*

Acts 16:31 *"Believe in the Lord Jesus & you will be saved"*

Trust Him!

Yet, people trip over foundation stone God placed there *for us!*

Stop trusting our efforts; trust what Jesus accomplished for us!

Are you trusting Him?

We have GOOD NEWS, are we telling others about it?!!