

Romans 10:1–4

Imagining, Knowing, and Submitting to the Righteousness of Christ, Who Is God

Monday, December 18, 2023 • Read Romans 10:1–4

Questions from the Scripture text: What does Paul call the believers in Rome (v1, cf. 9:3)? What sort of desire does he describe? To whom does he pray? For whom? What does he pray for them? What does he bear for them (v2)? For Whom do they think they have a zeal? But why isn't it truly a zeal for Him? Of what else were they ignorant (v3)? So what did they seek to establish? And to what did they not submit? To what/Whom did the law require them to submit for righteousness (v4)? How does one come into the righteousness of Christ that God requires (end of v4)?

How can we be righteous before God? Romans 10:1–4 prepares us for the sermon in the midweek prayer meeting. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **we can only be righteous before God in Christ Himself, and what He has done.**

Imitating God. “Brethren” in v1 reminds us not only that we are brothers in Christ but that we are children of the Father. He desires all men to be saved (cf. 1Tim 2:4). And so our own heart's desire and prayer to Him is for the same (v1).

Zeal for the true God. The apostle bears the Jews witness about their zeal for God. He himself had a zeal for God once, that was not a zeal for the true God but for a God of his own ignorant imaginings. He knew about the Scriptures as much as anyone; but, when he finally met the true God, he had no idea who He was (cf. Ac 9:5). So also the Jews, because their pursuit of righteousness is as if it were by works (cf. 9:32), their zeal for God (v2a) is not according to knowing Him (v2b).

Our zeal must be according to knowledge of God Himself. How we need to learn that sincerity and intensity of religion does not make our religion true! We must know God Himself. We must not only know about the Bible, but we must interpret the Bible according to the Bible itself, so that we may know God Himself in the Bible.

Righteousness from God alone. Because the Jews didn't know God, they didn't know His righteousness (v3a). They didn't see God as the One Who gives us His own righteousness (cf. 1:17), so they tried to establish their own (v3b). This is the quickest way to put ourselves in a position where instead of resting upon Christ for righteousness, we stumble over Him (cf. 9:32–33).

The language of v3 teaches us something about what it looks like to come to saving faith: “submitted to the righteousness of God.” God's righteousness, counted for us, is something that we must submit to. We must give up all other hope of righteousness. We must yield to God's provision in Christ! O, dear reader, do not fall into the delusion that anything that you do or feel or think can contribute to your right standing with God.

Righteousness only in Christ, only by faith. The law always taught it was God Who made His people righteous (v4a, cf. Ex 20:2; Lev 18:1, 4). With the life and death of Christ, we know that it is He in Whom this has always been the case. Righteousness is only from God, and therefore only in Christ. And if it is only in Christ, then it is also only by faith. Everyone who trusts in Christ receives the righteousness of God (v4b). Zeal isn't enough to save us. Only Christ is enough to save us.

What thinking are you tempted to trust in for righteousness? What feelings are you tempted to trust in for righteousness? What doing are you tempted to trust in for righteousness? What (Whom) must you trust in, instead?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for making Yourself to be our Savior, our righteousness. Forgive us for how we have hoped in ourselves so much that we thought our zeal, our sincerity, our effort could be true righteousness or become true righteousness. But You, Lord, have provided Your own righteousness in Christ! Grant unto us not only to know Your Word, but to submit ourselves to Your Word's interpretation of itself. Grant unto us to submit to the righteousness that You provide, the righteousness that is only in Christ, only by Who Christ is, only by what Christ has done. Let us see that it is only resting in Him that can make righteous, because it is only He that can make righteous. So, give us to know this and to embrace and rest upon Him alone for righteousness, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP32AB “LORD, From the Depths to You I Cried” or TPH435 “Not What My Hands have Done”

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans 10, verse 1 through 4. These are God's words. Brethren my heart's desire. And prayer to god for israel. Is that they may be saved? For i bear them witness. That they have a zeal for god. But not, according To knowledge. For they being ignorant of god's righteousness. And seeking to establish their own righteousness.

Have not submitted to the righteousness. Of god. For christ is the end of the law for righteousness. To everyone. Who believes? Just sends this reading of gods inspired and inherent word. Were helped to know where the desire of his heart comes from in verse 1. By the way, he addresses.

The roman believers and even ourselves. At the beginning of this. Chapter at the beginning of this, passage at the beginning of the first verse Brethren. We are brothers to the apostle Paul. Because we are brothers. To our eldest brother, our elder brother with a capital b. The lord jesus christ.

This is what god when he loved us from before the world began. And set that love upon us, those who he for knew as the scripture said, back and chapter 8 and verse 29. This is what he destined us for. To be conformed to the image of his son.

To be human reflections of what our heavenly father is, like, Our heavenly father of him, 1st Timothy 2 says He desires that none should perish but that all should come to the knowledge of the truth. And who many times? Are multiple times. In the book of Ezekiel says, specifically of israel.

Why will you die or israel? Do i have any pleasure? In the death of the wicked, but rather That he would turn. And be saved. And so we imitate our father. We imitate our father. When we become like, paul in this, when we become, like, christ in this who wept over jerusalem.

And who prayed even for his murderers from the cross. That they would be forgiven. We imitate god when it is, our hearts desire. And prayer to god. For the unbeliever and even, and especially the unbeliever who persecutes us. He reviles us like we have in our memory verse this week.

When it is our heart's desire for them to be saved. And prayer to god. Not just, when we remember, this is what we're supposed to do when people are like this to us, we're supposed to pray for their salvation. So i'm going to pray for their salvation, though, not just prayer.

Heart's desire. The character of god. Displayed supremely and perfectly in christ himself. Being reproduced in our hearts. The way. It was reproduced or imaged in paul's heart. And what he is. Then training them to do, isn't he? He says it this way, too. The Romans. So that they will see that this is not just theology that answers the question.

Why aren't more israelites believing right now at the time that it was written? That this is theology that has an application. For how they are supposed to feel. About those unconverted israelites. And how those feelings are to overflow from their hearts in prayer for salvation. For those unconverted israelites.

So, the very first thing that we see in this passage is Actually. How our hearts should imitate god and address god. In prayer. For the unbeliever and especially the unbeliever. Who has reviling us and Persecuting us. Second thing to hear see here. Is the zeal? By itself. Is not virtuous.

That it needs to be according to knowledge. It needs to be zeal for the true god. She says fry bear them witness that they have a zeal for god. And then the Rest of the verse kind of puts that in quotes, doesn't it? But not. According. To knowledge. What jesus said of those jews who were rejecting him during his earthly ministry was now at the time that this was written becoming true or being seen to be true, rather of many, many Jews, That they did not actually know the god for whom they

claimed to have zeal.

They? Thought and hoped, and claimed. That their zeal was for the one true god, but it actually wasn't at all. They didn't know him. Because they were rejecting christ. They didn't know him. Because they didn't understand his word. His word had taught them. That man is Helpless and hopeless.

That the sinners heart is deceitful. Above all things and desperately. Wicked, no righteousness could ever come from us and yet, god in his mercy by grace. Was saving. God was being the righteousness of his people and was working in them by faith. To make them to be counted righteous before him and working by his spirit to produce right justness in them.

These things did not become true for the first time. When the lord jesus came, these things had always been true. And god had always described himself this way in his word and this is why it is not Enough that we be adequately familiar with the text of his word, we must understand what that text is teaching.

We must understand the word rightly because it is the word by which we come to know the god of the word. And so the having the word of god is not like having some other kind of book. That you master the material. So that you can get better. No, having the word of god is important to get.

It is necessary that we get the word of god rightly because it is the word of god, by which we come to know the god of the word. And if they had known his word rightly, Then it would have, they would have known the reality of which jesus spoke to them.

When he said, you seek the scriptures because you believe that in them, you have eternal life but it is, they that speak. Of me. Is identifying himself, of course, as the god, who is righteousness for sinners through faith and works righteousness in redeemed, sinners By faith. And so this zeal that they had, Was a zeal that was not according.

To knowledge. It wasn't for The actual god, who is But for an idea. But, for an idea that Was existed in their heads rather than in the bible. Their zeal had replaced god himself. Who is the cornerstone? You remember in isaiah 8 and isaiah 28 before the lord ever identifies to us.

His son incarnate, as the cornerstone he had identifies himself, As the cornerstone. But they rather than resting upon him. The god of the viable. Stumbled over him. Showing that they did not know him. So theology is actually very important getting. Uh, getting the scriptures, correct. Is the difference? Between having zeal for an idol that we call God.

And having zeal for the god who truly is. And so we see in the first place, The necessity of imitating. God. And the second place. The necessity of right? Understanding of god, by right understanding of his word. At a zeal for him. Um, so that we might have zeal for the true god rather.

And therefore have righteousness, that was from god alone. So they have zeal, that is not according to knowledge verse 2. And what does this mean? Not just of their zeal for god but if they're righteousness, it means they're ignorant of god's righteous that righteousness. Not that they're ignorant that god is himself righteous.

But that god offers his own righteousness to us to be ours through faith. They didn't know this. They being ignorant of god's righteousness and seeking to establish. Their own righteousness. So since they're ignorant of god's righteousness, they sought to establish their own instead. Something that, of course is absolutely impossible.

You cannot establish your own righteousness. And so what happens? God. Displays his son. His beloved son with whom he as well, pleased. And he displays him his righteous throughout his whole life. Particularly throughout his earthly minister at the beginning and the end of his earthly ministry, he announces before all the earth that with his son, he as well, pleased.

And then he punishes his son for sin on the cross, but it's not his sin. How do we know? Because he rises again from the dead and in the resurrection. He declares again a third time that with his son, he is well, please. Well, how come this son with whom?

He is still? Well, pleased in the resurrection was crucified three days before for sin. As for our sin. So that he could become our righteousness. But because they had not read the scriptures rightly or known the god of the scriptures rightly and therefore had not known that. God's righteousness is the only righteousness.

That could ever. Uh, stand for a sinner. Such as all of us. Are an atom. Because they were ignorant of that and they were seeking to establish their own righteousness. They did not submit. To the righteousness of god. That had been displayed and offered. In jesus christ himself. That's what?

Chapter 4 says, That chapter 4. And that's what verse 4 says for christ, is the end of the law for righteousness. To everyone who believes. If you're reading the old testament, you know, that god is going to provide righteousness, is going to provide righteousness in himself. He's going to provide righteousness in a person who is the son of david and you have all of the pieces.

Uh, together, but you don't have the whole puzzle. And then he comes in the person of his son, he sends his son and the whole puzzle was put together there. Aha, it's christ. He is the one about whom the law was talking about all this time. He is the one to whom it looked forward.

He is the one whom it displayed in all of the sacrifices, the righteousness of god for us. And so this law, that was a law of righteousness. Not only in explaining the righteous character of god, but in offering god himself to be our righteousness. This law had its end.

Its goal. It's telos, it's purpose. In christ. That when jesus christ comes someone who believes the law, rightly who understands And believes the old testament correctly and all that it tells us about the righteous god, who himself will be righteousness for sinners? That, that he redeems. We see christ.

As the fulfillment of all of it. And we believe in him. We rest upon him. And we become righteous in him. He Becomes for us.

All righteousness. He is a righteousness. And so, There is this wonderful. Redemption and righteousness of god, that is right there. If the lord would just, Open their eyes. And, They don't deserve it and yet. The hope has not in them but it's in the lord and that's why. The heart's desire and the prayer.

Is directed towards god. That they might be saved. And our hearts desire. And prayer to god for ourselves. And for you, And for everyone. Is that they might know the scriptures this way. So that they might know. God this way. So that they might see. That christ is this, god?

Who has given himself to be righteousness for all? Who believe in him? Then, let's pray. Our gracious gardener heavenly father, our gracious. Lord and savior. Lord, jesus. We pray that you would make our hearts to reflect. Your character and your desire. That you would indeed. Save. Those perishing with which this world is filled.

That you would bring them to a saving knowledge of christ resting upon him. Worlds and everything in it. And who has given himself to be. For sinners. Lord, we pray that we ourselves. Might rest upon him alone through faith. That we would not seek to establish our own righteousness.

Don't allow us to continue in ignorance. Keep us from continuing in ignorance by your spirit. So that we would understand your word more and more. And more and more clearly. That we might know you O God and not be ignorant of you. We pray that we might continue to have zeal.

But that our zeal would be more and more, according to knowledge. Granted we ask O Lord, in Jesus name. Amen.