Jesus: Foundation or Frustration?

### Discovering the Righteousness of God—A study in the book of Roman

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## Romans 9:30-10:4 (ESV)

**30**What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; **31**but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. **32**Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, **33**as it is written,

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense;  
    and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

**10**Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. **2**For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. **3**For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. **4**For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

**1) Our Pride is at the root of our frustration.**

1 Corinthians 1:23-24

23 We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Romans 3:21-22a

21 The righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it – 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

Mark 7:6-9

6 “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; 7 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ 8 You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.” 9 And He said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!”

Isaiah 29:13-14

13 And the Lord said: “Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men, 14 therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder.”

**2) Our passions reveal our answer.**

**3) Our proper foundation is in Jesus alone.**

# 1 Peter 2:4-10 (ESV)

**4**As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, **5**you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6**For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
    a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

**7**So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
    has become the cornerstone,”

**8**and

“A stone of stumbling,  
    and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

**9**But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **10**Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

### THE BOTTOM LINE:

### Are we standing on Jesus, or stumbling over Him?

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