

Israel's Failure, Part 1

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 10.
- B. We are called to know truth. (John 1, 8, 14, 17, 2 Corinthians 11)
- C. Truth is elusive. (2 Timothy 3:7)
- D. Paul said that Israel was ignorant of God's knowledge even though they were bound to the pursuit of truth. (John 8:19; 9; Acts 3:17; Luke 19:44, Isaiah 5:13; Hosea 4:6; Romans 2:17)
- E. Israel was ignorant because of sovereign election but also because of personal unbelief.

II. Paul's pleading with God is for Israel's salvation--he is not a cold, indifferent Calvinist.

- A. We do not know who the elect are, so we preach and pray for all. (2 Timothy 2:10)
- B. We cannot lose balance.

III. Paul understood the zealousness of the Jews. (Galatians 1:13; Philippians 3; Acts 26:5; 22::3)

- A. Their zealousness was not informed.
- B. False knowledge brings pride; true knowledge brings humility.

IV. Israel's ignorance.

A. The person of God.

1. They neglected God's righteousness. (Jeremiah 9:24, Psalm 145:17)
2. They thought God would tolerate their unholiness.
3. They believed they could obtain righteousness because they brought God low. (Revelation 15:4, Exodus 15:4, 2 Chronicles 20:21, Palm 30:4)
4. God is the standard of holiness. (Psalm 103:1; 22:3; 95:9; 47:8; Isaiah 6; Revelation 5; Psalm 11:7; 71:19; 48:10; 119:142; 50:21)
5. We underplay God's holiness in evangelism and many other areas.
6. We should be afraid of God's presence with sin unaddressed. (Genesis 6, Luke 5; Isaiah 64:6)

B. The provision of Christ.

C. The place of faith.

D. The parameters of salvation.

E. The predictions of Scripture.

Application Questions:

1. If salvation comes from election, why witness or pray for the lost?

2. Why does true knowledge bring humility?

3. In what areas do you see yourself underplaying the holiness of God? How can you respond differently?
