

Israel's Failure, Part 3

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 10.

B. Israel's story is a tragedy of missed opportunity. (Deuteronomy 31:16)

1. Israel rejects God in the Old Testament.

2. Their rejection increases in the New Testament with the rejection of Messiah.

C. Paul is writing a defense of justification by faith. Israel's unbelief is not counter to the gospel.

II. Israel was ignorant of...

A. The person of God.

1. He is infinitely holy beyond our attaining.

2. The Jews created a god who was less.

3. We have to perceive God as so infinitely holy that he is beyond our attaining and that we need a savior. (Leviticus 11:45)

4. God's grace and mercy come to our rescue through the death of Jesus Christ that releases it. (Luke 13)

5. Many attack God's righteousness.

a. They say he changes. God changes in his actions towards man but not in his nature. (1 Corinthians 10:8, Genesis 6:6, Numbers 23:19)

b. They say he is hateful, but what he hates is sin. (Malachi 1)

c. They say he is deceptive, but God takes even evil entities for his good purposes. (1 Kings 22)

d. They say he is angry, but he is angry but only for a moment. (Psalm 77)

e. They say he is cruel, but the people had become a pollution. (Exodus 23:32; 34:12)

f. They say he justifies cursing, but the prophet cursed to protect the name of God. (2 Kings 2:23, Leviticus 26:21)

Application Questions:

1. Which attack against God's character do you think is most common today? Would you add anything to the speaker's response?

2. Why is it critical to understand God's holiness in order to receive salvation?

3. How can a person go about receiving salvation? Explain.
