

# “The Romans Road Rebooted”—Part 14

JULY 20, 2014

---

## **BELIEF and DISBELIEF in Christ Jesus are no small matters!**

### **1. It ought to be our DESIRE that ALL we come into contact with be saved without any HINDRANCE on our part. (10:1)**

- **MALACHI 2:1-9 (ESV)**

*“And now, O priests, this command is for you. <sup>2</sup>If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. <sup>3</sup>Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it. <sup>4</sup>So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>5</sup>My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name. <sup>6</sup>True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. <sup>7</sup>For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. <sup>8</sup>But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, <sup>9</sup>and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.”*

- **ROMANS 14:13-23 (ESV)**

*<sup>13</sup>Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. <sup>14</sup>I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. <sup>15</sup>For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. <sup>16</sup>So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. <sup>17</sup>For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup>Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. <sup>19</sup>So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.*

*<sup>20</sup>Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. <sup>21</sup>It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. <sup>22</sup>The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. <sup>23</sup>But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.*

### **2. Many people have a ZEAL for the things of God, but do not KNOW or DESIRE to KNOW God. They want what is at Jesus’ TABLE, but do not want JESUS. (10:2)**

- **2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5 (ESV)**

*But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. <sup>2</sup>For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, <sup>4</sup>treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.*

- **1 JOHN 2:3-6 (ESV)**

*<sup>3</sup>And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. <sup>4</sup>Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, <sup>5</sup>but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: <sup>6</sup>whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*

### **3. Zealousness for God in Christ Jesus is POINTLESS if we seek to ESTABLISH or our own righteousness and not SUBMIT to God. (10:3)**

- ✚ Instead of submitting to God, they sought to “establish” their own righteousness.
- ✚ The idea of the word “establish” is to make their own covenant and righteousness instead of submitting to God’s covenant and righteousness.

- **ROMANS 1:16-32 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup>For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup>For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

<sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup>because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

<sup>26</sup>For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; <sup>27</sup>and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

<sup>28</sup>And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup>They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup>slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup>foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup>Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

#### 4. Christ Jesus has not **ABOLISHED** the **LAW**, but He is the **END GOAL** and fulfillment of the **LAW**. (10:4-5)

- **MATTHEW 5:17-20 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

- ✚ Righteousness cannot be fulfilled any other way. We cannot do what only God can do in and through Jesus Christ.

- **JOHN 10:7-10 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

- **JOHN 14:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

#### 5. The nonexistence of **SALVATION** for these individuals is not an issue of **IGNORANCE**, but because a lack of **SUBMISSION** to righteousness found in Christ. (10:6-13)

- ✚ God has brought near the Word of salvation and salvation itself.

- **JOHN 1:1-5, 9-14 (ESV)**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...*

*<sup>9</sup>The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

*<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

✚ **Therefore, the heart-belief and the mouth-confession are inseparable when it comes to salvation.**

- **PSALM 119:113-120 (ESV)**

*<sup>113</sup>I hate the double-minded, but I love your law. <sup>114</sup>You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word. <sup>115</sup>Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God. <sup>116</sup>Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope! <sup>117</sup>Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually! <sup>118</sup>You spurn all who go astray from your statutes, for their cunning is in vain. <sup>119</sup>All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross, therefore I love your testimonies. <sup>120</sup>My flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments.*

- **1 JOHN 5:1-5 (ESV)**

*Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup>For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

✚ **We see the unity of universal kindness, mercy and grace of God in that God will call all that He has chosen to Himself.**

- **EPHESIANS 2:1-10 (ESV)**

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the **gift** of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

- **DŌRON (STRONG'S GREEK DICT.)**

*A present; specifically a sacrifice gift offering*

- **JOHN 1:12-13 (ESV)**

*<sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he **gave** the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

- **DÍDŌMI (THAYER'S GREEK DICT.)**

*To give one something; to bestow a gift; to grant or reach out and extend*

- **JOHN 6:64-65 (ESV)**

<sup>64</sup> But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) <sup>65</sup> And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

- **MATTHEW 22:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> "For many are called, but few are **chosen**."

- **EKLEKT-PRONOUNCED EK-LEK-TOS (THAYER'S GREEK DICT.)**

Picked out, chosen; chosen by God; to obtain salvation through Christ

## 6. Therefore, salvation is a matter of HEARING the WORD of CHRIST. (10:14-17)

- **JEREMIAH 6:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear? Behold, their ears are uncircumcised, they cannot listen; behold, the word of the LORD is to them an object of scorn; they take no pleasure in it.

- **ROMANS 11:7-8 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, <sup>8</sup> as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day."

✚ **The lack of belief is not just a matter of hearing, but that they cannot and have no will to hear.**

✚ **The lack of belief is not just a matter of submission, but that they cannot and have no will to submit to the Word of Christ.**

✚ **Unless someone hears the Word of Christ and submits to the Lordship of Christ, they cannot be saved.**

## 7. No one is INNOCENT in their disbelief. (10:18-21)

- **ROMANS 3:9-18, 23-24 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> ... For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, <sup>10</sup> as it is written:

"None is righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup> no one understands; no one seeks for God. <sup>12</sup> All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." <sup>13</sup> "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." <sup>14</sup> "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." <sup>15</sup> "Their feet are swift to shed blood; <sup>16</sup> in their paths are ruin and misery, <sup>17</sup> and the way of peace they have not known." <sup>18</sup> "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

<sup>23</sup> ...For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

✚ **Salvation comes in God's timing by His will.**

- **2 PETER 3:2-13 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> ...You should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, <sup>3</sup> knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. <sup>4</sup> They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."<sup>5</sup> For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, <sup>6</sup> and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. <sup>7</sup> But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. <sup>8</sup> But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup> But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.