

**Life Church Message 2011-11-27 - God's Righteousness - Accept No  
Substitutes**

- **God's Righteousness - Accept No Substitutes (Romans 9 - 10)**  
**Pastor Rocklyn Clarke - Sunday November 27, 2011**  
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- **New Material**
- **God's Righteousness - Accept No Substitutes**
- **Preparation - Romans 9-10**
- **Select the Passage - Romans 9**

I speak the truth in Christ — I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit — I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." In other words, it is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

Not only that, but Rebekah's children had one and the same father, our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad — in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls — she was told, "The older will serve the younger." Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?" But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath — prepared for destruction? What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory — even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles? As he says in Hosea: "I will call them 'my

people' who are not my people; and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one," and, "It will happen that in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"

Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved. For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed and finality."

It is just as Isaiah said previously: "Unless the Lord Almighty had left us descendants, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah."

What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone." As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

- **Select the Passage - Romans 10**

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile — the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. But I ask: Did

they not hear? Of course they did: “Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.” Again I ask: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says, “I will make you envious by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding.” And Isaiah boldly says, “I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me.” But concerning Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people.”

- **Study the Passage**
- **Discover the Exegetical Idea**
  - God is free to show mercy and compassion to whomever he chooses and he chooses people who pursue righteousness by faith rather than people who try to establish their own righteousness.
- **Analyze the Exegetical Idea**
  - Explain It: What does this mean?
    - **Romans 9:1-5**

The Israelites are God's historical people, but they've missed out on his greatest blessing (e.g. Romans 8:31-39).
    - **Romans 9:6-13**

This is not a failure of God's Word! The scriptures themselves record examples of determining which of Abraham's descendants would inherit his blessing.
    - **Romans 9:14-18**

God made it clear to Moses that he shows mercy and compassion as he sees fit. He even elevated Pharaoh to the throne of Egypt in order to carry out his purposes for Israel.
    - **Romans 9:19-21**

It is foolish to try to complain to God about his sovereign choice or to call him to account for it.
    - **Romans 9:22-26**

God patiently bears with the lost in order to display his glory to the saved. He loves to welcome those who were formerly rejected.
    - **Romans 9:27-29**

Isaiah predicted that only a remnant of Israel would be saved.
    - **Romans 9:30-33**

Israel did not obtain righteousness because they pursued it as if it were by works.
    - **Romans 10:1-4**

In their zeal to establish their own righteousness the Israelites did not submit to God's righteousness.
    - **Romans 10:5-13**

The righteousness that is by law is based on deriving life from obedience to rules. The righteousness that is by faith is based on embracing the message that Jesus is Lord.

- Romans 10:14-15  
Embracing the message wouldn't be possible if God hadn't sent people to preach it.
- Romans 10:16-21  
Israel blew it because they failed to accept the message then and "now" even though God used "outsider" nations to provoke them.
- Prove It: Is it True? Do I believe it?
  - Look at the way the church is perceived today.
- Apply It: What difference does it make? So What?
  - It's still by faith!
  - We are still capable of trying to establish our own righteousness. It happens in churches all the time.
  - Don't get it twisted.
- **Formulate the Homiletical Idea:**  
God's Righteousness - Accept No Substitutes
- **Determine the Purpose of the Sermon (what listeners should do)**
  - Make sure you're plugged into God's righteousness.
  - Recognize that some people reject God's righteousness.
  - Don't be disobedient and obstinate with God.
- **Decide How to Accomplish This Purpose**
  - ?
- **Outline the Sermon**
- **Standing Issues**
  - From a word Bishop gave me:
    - Make sure people do something with God's message.
    - Make it plain:
      - Use accessible language.
      - Use modern day parables based on every day occurrences:
        - Sitting at a stop light
        - Driving through a green light
        - Approaching a yellow light
        - Being cut off in traffic
        - Going shopping
        - Going to a mall
        - Going to school; sitting in class
        - Going to work; sitting in your office;
  - Keep it simple.

- Use illustrations of truth out of my own experience.
- Impart faith to obey the Word and receive God's promises.

- **Introduction**

- Welcome to another service at the Hampton Inn & Suites.
  - Welcome Cards -
    - “I want to call your attention to the Welcome Card that you were given on your way into the auditorium”
    - These cards do two things for us:
      - They help us get to know our new visitors better.
      - They also give anyone (visitors or members) a chance to express a need or to give us feedback.
      - By filling it out you will help us to better serve you.
    - We're going to provide time for you to complete the cards at the end of our service, but we encourage you to start filling them out now.
      - **Please use this card:**
        - if you're a **first time visitor** or if you've **never** filled one out before,
        - to tell us about a **decision you made** today,
        - to ask us for more information, or to give us **feedback**.
- Please include your contact information** unless we already have it. At the **end of service** we'll ask you to complete the card and then place it in the designated box or give it to someone from our staff on your way out.

- Transition

- **Read the Passage - Romans 9**

I speak the truth in Christ — I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit — I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

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believes.

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But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did: “Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.” Again I ask: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says, “I will make you envious by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding.” And Isaiah boldly says, “I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me.” But concerning Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people.”

- **Exegetical Idea**

God is free to show mercy and compassion to whomever he chooses and he chooses people who pursue righteousness by faith rather than people who try to establish their own righteousness.

- **What does this mean?**

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God patiently bears with the lost in order to display his glory to the saved. He loves to welcome those who were formerly rejected.
- Romans 9:27-29  
Isaiah predicted that only a remnant of Israel would be saved.
- Romans 9:30-33  
Israel did not obtain righteousness because they pursued it as if it were by works.
- Romans 10:1-4  
In their zeal to establish their own righteousness the Israelites did not submit to God's righteousness.
- Romans 10:5-13  
The righteousness that is by law is based on deriving life from obedience to rules. The righteousness that is by faith is based on embracing the message that Jesus is Lord (see **Deuteronomy 30:11-20**)
  - Titus 1:16 - Confession can be nullified by lifestyle.
- Romans 10:14-15  
Embracing the message wouldn't be possible if God hadn't sent people to preach it.
- Romans 10:16-21  
Israel blew it because they failed to accept the message then and "now" even though God used "outsider" nations to provoke them.
- **Is it True? Do I believe it?**
  - Look at the way the church is perceived today.
- **What difference does it make? So What?**
  - It's still by faith!
  - We are still capable of trying to establish our own righteousness. It happens in churches all the time.
  - Don't try to do it your way!
- **Homiletical Idea:**  
God's Righteousness - Accept No Substitutes
- **Purpose of the Sermon (what listeners should do)**
  - Understand clearly God's righteousness and how to receive it.
  - Recognize that some people reject God's righteousness.
  - Don't be disobedient and obstinate with God.
- **Understand clearly God's righteousness and how to receive it.**

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- **Recognize that some people reject God's righteousness.**

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- **Don't be disobedient and obstinate with God.**

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- **Conclusion**

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- **Altar Call / Welcome Cards / Communion ?**

- Welcome Cards - refer to script
- We're almost ready to close this portion of our service, but first we want to give you a chance to respond to what you've heard.
- Earlier in the service we mentioned the welcome cards and we encouraged you to begin filling them out.
- Right now we want you to complete your welcome card. We especially want you to use this card if:
  - if you're a first time visitor
  - if you've never filled one out before,
  - if you want to tell us about a decision you made today,
  - if you want to ask us for more information, or to give us feedback.
- Please be sure to include your up to date contact information unless we already have it.

- **MC & Worship Team continue with tithes, offerings, and worship**

- **Benediction - Numbers 6:24-26**

““The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.””

- **Men's Prayer**

- **Life Group Material**

- **Life Group Word Material**

These are sample discussion questions / topics. Your life group leaders may choose to adjust these questions, substitute new ones, or spend the Word section of the meeting in a different way altogether.

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- **Romans 9**

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Not only that, but Rebekah's children had one and the same father, our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad — in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls — she was told, "The older will serve the younger." Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

**What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.**

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- **Discussion Questions / Topics:**

- According to Romans 9:16 salvation does not depend on man's desire or effort but on God's mercy. How does this compare with what you have believed about salvation up until now? How do you feel about this statement?
- Israel "blew it" because they pursued righteousness by works. What about you? How are you pursuing righteousness? Discuss.

- **Romans 10**

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- **Discussion Questions / Topics:**

- The Israelites sought to establish their own righteousness and didn't submit to God's. Has this ever been true of you? What about now? Discuss.
- Israel heard the Good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, but they rejected it. Is there any aspect of God's truth that you are currently rejecting?

- **Scriptures For 11/27/2011 Life Church Sermon**

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**Deuteronomy 30:11-20**

Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, “Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, “Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

**Romans 9**

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Not only that, but Rebekah’s children had one and the same father, our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad — in order that God’s purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls — she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

One of you will say to me: “Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?” But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’” Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath — prepared for destruction? What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory — even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles? As he says in Hosea: “I will call them ‘my people’ who are not my people; and I will call her ‘my loved one’ who is not my loved one,” and, “It will happen that in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’”

Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved. For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed and finality.”

It is just as Isaiah said previously: “Unless the Lord Almighty had left us descendants, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah.”

What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the “stumbling stone.” As it is written: “See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

## **Romans 10**

Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: “The man who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, “Anyone

who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile — the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did: “Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.” Again I ask: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says, “I will make you envious by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding.” And Isaiah boldly says, “I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me.” But concerning Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people.”