



March 8, 2015

## The Joy of Gospel Access Romans 9 - 10

### Introduction

In Romans 9 the apostle Paul expresses how the Jews had a worthy goal---to honor God. But they tried to achieve it in the wrong way---by rigid and painstaking obedience to the law. The result was that they became more dedicated to the law than to God. They thought that if they kept the law, God would have to accept them as his people. But God cannot be controlled. The Jews did not see that their Scriptures, the Old Testament, taught that salvation depended on faith, not on human effort. The “rock” they stumbled over was **JESUS**. Romans 9:32 says, “Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the “stumbling stone.” Some people still stumble over **JESUS** because salvation by faith doesn’t make sense to them. Other’s stumble over **JESUS** because his values are the opposite of the world’s. Dr. Tim Crouch stated that we must focus on God’s Word and God’s World. He also stated that there is a proportionate relationship in our own joy in receiving the gospel and wanting others to experience that joy as well.

### Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been part of a short or long term mission project overseas or locally? What was that experience like? How were you impacted?
2. As much as 50% of the world has not heard the good news of Christ. How does this make you feel?
3. As Romans 10 states “how can someone trust in Him who he have never heard, and how can one trust if no one tells about He who can be trusted, and how can someone be told if one is sent?” How is it possible for every follower of Christ to reach out and touch one person with the good news?
4. When you look at a map of people’s access to the gospel, the areas with the least access are closest to the epicenter of the original movement (Israel, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Northern Africa, Turkey, Syria, and Lebanon). Why do you think Christianity is now stifled in this region? Why did this happen? What does this mean?
5. A local modern version of Acts 1:8 says, “You will receive power from the Holy Spirit to be His witness in Dayton, all of Ohio and the United States, and the rest of the world.” How do you see yourself fulfilling that scripture?
6. We have free and open access to God’s word without the physical persecution which is common throughout the world. Is our country on a path where this freedom and access could be restrained?

**Conclusion...**“that is you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be save.” Romans 10:9