



**Christian Life Fellowship**  
*Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ*



## Israel's Rejection of Christ as the Messiah

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### **Introduction:**

Today we are going to look at the tenth chapter of Romans. Paul goes on in this chapter and looks at three aspects of Israel's rejection of Christ as the Messiah.

### **I. The reasons for rejecting Christ. (10:1-13)**

One would think that Israel as a nation would have been eager for the arrival of their Messiah and been prepared to receive Him. They knew the prophecies that had been spoken about His coming. They knew that God had sought to prepare them to receive Him, but when He came they rejected Him. **John 1:11** **Even in his own land and among his own people, he was not accepted.**

To be sure, there was a remnant of people who were looking for Christ. Simeon and Anna were among them, but the majority of people were living their lives with no thought about the coming Messiah.

Here is a caution for God's people today. Be looking and expecting Christ to come back. Eagerly anticipate His returning and don't think that He will delay His coming indefinitely. There is a time known only to God when Christ will return. We are to be ready, busy about His work till He comes back.

Paul gives several reasons as to why this tragic event happened.

- **The people did not recognize they needed salvation.** The nation as a whole believed that the Gentiles needed salvation, but not them. Jesus indicated that this attitude was wrong. Jesus used at

least two parables in His teaching that speak to this wrong attitude. The Elder brother in [Luke 15:11-32](#) and the Pharisee in [Luke 18:9-14](#).

It is easy today for people to think the same way. The world view of many people is that they don't need God in their lives. Perhaps there are other people who need God, but not them. They are pretty good people and they are trusting in their goodness to save them.

- **The people were passionate for God.** After the Israeli people returned from being captive in Babylon for years, they were cured of idolatry. Only the true God was worshipped in their temple and synagogues. In fact they were so full of passion for God and His commandments that they added their own traditions and made them equal to the law. Paul also had been filled with passion for the law. That passion was not based on knowledge. It was based on their good works and religious deeds. They sincerely thought those things would save them. Their sincerity and devotion could not bring them the salvation they needed.

Listen friends, there are many sincere people who are lost. Do you think the people who flew into the Trade Center in New York City on 9/11 were sincere? Absolutely! They were sold out to their cause, but they were lost. **Romans 3:20** **For no one can ever be made right in God's sight by doing what his**

**law commands. For the more we know God's law, the clearer it becomes that we aren't obeying it.**

- **The people were proud and self-righteous.** They were ignorant of God's righteousness, not because they hadn't been told but because they refused to learn. Israel had many opportunities to be saved. Theirs was willful, stubborn resistance to the truth. They were proud of their own good works and religious self-righteousness. They refused to admit their sins and trust the Savior.

- **The people misunderstood their own laws.** Everything about their religion pointed to the coming Messiah; the sacrifices, the priesthood, the temple worship, the festivals and covenants. Their law told them they were sinners in need of a Savior, but instead of allowing the law to bring them to Christ, they worshipped the law and rejected the Savior.

Paul indicates the importance of confessing what we believe in our heart. It is with the heart that you believe and are justified, it is with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9) If you confess me before men, I will confess you before my father in heaven. We should not be ashamed to be called a follower, a believer, a disciple of Christ, a Christian! When you work for a company, you should be proud you work there. I work at \_\_\_\_\_. When you support a team like the Packers, or the Bucks, you are identifying with them and you let people know. Because you believe in them, you support them, you stand with them. When they win, you win,. When they lose, you lose.

With Christ, we confess we believe in what Christ died for and the message and mission of Christianity. Let's take a moment right now and confess our faith together:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

In Verse 13 Paul declares that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. That word is true. Everyone, regardless of age, of gender, of economic status, of position, of race, of health conditions, of closeness to death, of what they have done in the pastí ..whoever calls on the name of Jesus will be saved.

Paul quotes from Joel 2:32 to prove that this salvation is open to everyone. "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Paul proved that there was no difference in condemnation of Jews and Gentiles; now he proves that there is no difference in salvation. There is no other name given among men whereby we must be saved. I'm sorry if you think that is narrow and it is narrow when we look at all the other ways people think they can be saved. There is only one way to the Father and that is through Jesus Christ His Son.

## II. The remedy for rejecting Christ (v.14-17)

The basis for our missions thrust is found right here. Our mission's statement at CLF is thisí ..is to reach all people within the greater Mayville, Wisconsin area and the world with the hope of Jesus Christ, compelling those who do not follow Christ to do so and challenging those who do follow Christ to become fully devoted and Spirit-filled in following Him, expressing their devotion through evangelism, preaching, teaching, worship, prayer, healing, fellowship and the Biblical cultivation of a God centered family and community as demonstrated in Acts 2:42-47."

How can people hear unless they are told? Faith to believe comes from hearing the Word of God. The Word is so powerful and important to people believing and acting in faith. Let me caution you to cling to the Word. There are all kinds of false doctrines that are deceptive. Jesus warned us that before He would return there would be great deception so much so that many will be deceived and turn from the faith.

Cling to the Word. What we believe and confess has to be founded in the Word. If it is in the Word, believe it. If it is not in the Word then run from it. Know the Word. Stand on the Word. Act on the Word. The Word is alive. The men and women who wrote it were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write it. Share the Word as part of your witness.

Paul used the quote from [Isaiah 52:7-10](#) in a present application: the messengers of the Gospel taking the good news to Israel today. The remedy for Israel's rejection is in hearing the Word of the Gospel and believing on Jesus Christ.

**Isaiah 53:1 Who has believed our message? To whom will the LORD reveal his saving power?**

Here Paul indicates that not all of Israel would obey the Word. Many ancient rabbis believed that this chapter refers to Christ as the suffering Messiah who came to bear the sins of His people. Note that trusting Christ for salvation is not simply a matter of believing, but also obeying. True faith must touch the will and result in a changed life. There are many compelling reasons as to why we send missionaries. The two that come to the forefront of my mind are these:

A. The command from Christ to go into all the world and preach the gospel to [Mark 16:15](#)

B. The constraint from within to the love of Christ to [II Cor. 5:14](#)

One month from today, we will have our missions emphasis Sunday. Former Associate Pastor Robbie and Tracie Bradford will be with us to share their vision for "The Bridge", a new international church they will be planting in France along with Mark and Tania Wolf. You should have received a letter about your faith promise. Listen friends. It is important that we tithe and support this local ministry, but it is also important that each of us take responsibility for helping to fund missions work around the world. I am asking everyone here to plan to do something beyond what you give to CLF for missions.

**III. The results of rejecting Christ (v. 18-21)**

- **Israel is guilty (10:18)**

**Conclusion:**

This scripture clearly refers to the present day of salvation or the day of grace in which we live. I trust that we learn from the Israelite people that we do not reject Christ, that we are not proud and self-righteous and that we embrace the message of God's love and forgiveness, sharing it with others so they can be saved. God wants to use us to share the gospel with both Jews and Gentiles. Will God's patience wear out? Is there a future for the people of Israel? Yes there is. Next week we will look at Chapter 11.

Paul would argue according to [Psalm 19:4](#) that God has revealed Himself in nature, and in His word. Both of these compliment each other and proclaim God's glory. Israel had the benefit of both creation and the Word. She had seen God at work in nature and had received God's written Word. Israel had heard but did not heed.

People often ask the question about those who have never heard the gospel. That is another compelling reason why we need to go as missionaries and send missionaries so people can hear. However, we also must remember that God has revealed Himself to people through His creation.

- **The message goes to the Gentiles (10:19-20)**

What grace. When Israel rejected Christ as the Messiah, God sent the message to the Gentiles. Moses predicted this in [Deuteronomy 32:21](#). God was trying to win Israel to Himself by provoking the Jews to jealousy.

The New Testament's ruling principle of operation was "first to the Jew". Jesus went first to the Jews in His earthly ministry. In the first chapters of Acts the ministry is to Jews first.

The Jewish believers were shocked when Peter went to the Gentiles, but he explained that it was God who sent him and he was convinced that Jews and Gentiles both were saved the same way to by faith in Jesus Christ.

- **God still yearns over His people (10:21)**

**Isaiah 65:2 "I opened my arms to my own people all day long, but they have rebelled. They follow their own evil paths and thoughts."**

