

Romans, pt.16, 3.11.07

Rom.9.30 – 10.21

Jesus Christ: Stumbling Block or Foundation Stone?

Intro

1. Read Text
2. I believe the greatest hinderance to people coming to Jesus is Jesus. Many people believe that Jesus was a good person, good role model, good teaching...Muslims say he's a prophet, Hindus a god, Buddhist an elightened one, Jews a teacher, & Christians say he died on the cross...
3. But Paul said Jesus is a great stumbling stone; at his birth Simeon said he is destined to cause the falling of many; Peter said Jesus is the stone that causes many to stumble; & Jesus said, I am the stone that will break people to pieces.
4. Everyone like Jesus the shepherd, healer, teacher, radical, but what Jesus is preeminently is our Sin Bearer & our Lord. We must confess him as such...He will accept nothing less. He will either be the foundation stone of your life or he will be the stumbling block that crushes you.
5. The Jews then and people today take issue with Jesus. Is he a stumbling block to you or your foundation stone?

BELIEVING IN ALL THE WRONG THINGS (9.30 – 10.4)

1. Read Text...the Jews thought the following things made them right in God's sight
2. Their position in God's purposes (9)
 - a. They were chosen as God's birthing people. God used them to bring his salvation purposes to the earth. They had & have a special position with God. Don't equate a special role with a close relationship. Assumed role meant they were right in God's sight.
 - b. Appl –
3. The Law would make them right with God (9.31f.)
 - a. Expl why the Law was given – R.3.19f.

- b. They thought following the Law was the access point to God
 - c. Like thinking a map is the destination. The map takes you to the destination. The Law takes you to the cross which gives you access to cross.
- 4. Their sincerity was enough (10.2). they thought their zeal, passion & sincerity was synonymous with truthfulness & correctness".
 - a. They tried really hard & were completely dedicated to their belief system.
 - b. Today - we don't want to question the truthfulness of anyone's faith, b/c we equate sincerity with truthfulness.
- 5. Their past (10.3) history with God. "They cling to their own way."
 - a. They thought their nation's past experience with God was sufficient for the present...it wasn't. They thought, "the way God operated back then is they way he'll operate today."
 - b. God foretold them about the change, but they didn't understand it. When it finally registered to the disciples only a few thousand responded positively. Most were confused or disaffected.
 - c. Even the early Christians had a hard time negotiating the changing ministry of God, ie, the expansion of the gospel to the Gentiles.
 - d. Application: Your past history with God can be both your greatest resource for discerning God's activity & the greatest weakness for discerning God's voice. You think you know everything
- 6. They didn't see the necessity of the cross (10.4).
 - a. 1 Cor.1.18-23 - it was foolish & offensive to the Jews
 - b. He was the "end"; the goal that the Law was pointing
- 7. Summary - They had a degree of truth, but they believed in the wrong things.
- 8. Application: What about you... what things do you believe that you think will make you right with God? Ask yourself: In order to be right with God, I must...
 - a. Past history with God
 - b. Sincerity of belief

- c. You think you can do it on your own w/o the cross
- d. Being moral
- e.

9. What happened? 9.32b – They stumbled over the great rock!

TS – To those that believe the wrong things, Jesus is a stumbling block, but to those who trust in the right things, he is their foundation stone.

TRUSTING IN THE RIGHT THINGS (10.5–13)

1. Read text

- a. Expl. V.6 – you don't have to do some valiant exploit to be right with God or discover his way of salvation. As one scholar says, "in order to understand the message of salvation you don't have to climb up to heaven or storm the kingdom of the dead...the message of salvation stands before you....what is it? V.9f.

2. Key sentence – 10.9 – confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord & believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead.

- a. This is a clear presentation of the way of salvation.
- b. There is a difference between believing in your mind & believing your heart. Many on the day of judgment will find themselves cast to Hell, b/c they only believed in their mind & not heart. Believing in your heart means you put your complete trust/confidence/faith in Christ.

3. That Jesus Christ has taken away my sin

- a. Rom.3.21–28:

4. That Jesus Christ is my Lord

- a. Confess with your mouth. A witness. No such thing as secret service saints...baptism is a confessional...living witness...showing & telling...people know which side you are on.
- b. Jesus said, "Mt.10.32f."
 - i. Example of current day persecution of believers...would we publicly stand for Christ if we lived under persecution... knew our names & pictures

- were being taken...that we would be tortured...that a terrorist may take out a gun and start shooting...
- c. Jesus is Lord is a confessional statement, that comes from confessing Caesar as Lord...this means Jesus has complete charge of my life.
 - i. The icon – Bowing your knee to Christ
 - ii. You can't be saved w/o making Jesus your boss...there is no fire insurance salvation...it is Lordship salvation...you give him all you know to give him...
 - iii. You must relinquish your rights. Jesus demands allegiance not occasional cooperation.
 - d. Lord = God. Acknowledging Jesus as Lord you are stating that he shares the same nature, power & authority as the one true God.
5. That Jesus has risen from the dead
- a. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the core of Christianity...w/o it, christianity is simply a set of ethical teachings.
 - b. The resurrection of Jesus validates all that Jesus did & taught
6. Appl – Can you say that you have confessed Jesus is your Lord & believed in your heart that God raised him from the dead? V.11 – He won't disappoint.
7. Is Jesus your foundation stone or a stumbling stone?
8. V.13 – Everyone who calls on his name will be saved! Anyone can be saved, regardless of background. But, God doesn't have alternative methods of salvation for different religious & ethnic groups.

TELLING OF THE GOOD THINGS (10.14F.)

- 1. Read text
- 2. Since Christ is my foundation stone I must be telling others of the good things...the good things of salvation.
- 3. It's easier to understand the flow of this passage by reading it in reverse order
 - a. Christ has sent us to preach the Good News

- b. We preach the Good News
 - c. They hear it
 - d. They believe it
 - e. They call out to God
 - f. Those who call on the name of the Lord are saved!
4. We must tell them even in our culture that's saturated with religion...there's no longer a common cultural understanding of Jesus...people don't understand the cross...messed up view of Jesus...Westerners have a hard time following a person who demands allegiance & complete loyalty...your circle of influence must be told
- a. Diana Hibbs comment about the
5. Personal goal for 2007 to share the gospel with 100 people
6. Tracts - available on the greeter desk, like Gideon Bibles
7. Are there others who are closer to Christ b/c of you?

REJECTING ALL THE BEST THINGS (10.16-21)

1. They heard the message of salvation...not everyone welcomes it like those in 10.14f.
 - a. They heard it all around
 - b. They heard it through Moses & Isaiah
 - c. They experienced it through God's kind generosity (10.21).
He held out his hand to help them
2. They hardened their hearts (ch.11)
 - a. They rejected God's way (10.3) of salvation
3. God set them aside (ch.11)
4. Application:
 - a. Today, you've heard the message of salvation...the Jews of then & today stumble over it...it doesn't make sense...they don't want to believe it...what about you...will you trust in all the right things or will you believe in all the wrong things & reject all the best things?
 - b. 2 Cor.6.1...when you don't embrace the truth...your heart gets a little harder...more resistant to the truth

- c. The greatest hinderance to coming to faith in Jesus is Jesus. He won't accept our substitutions, additions, subtractions, propostions or specutlations...we must bow the knee and come to him as Lord. You will either build your life on him as your foundation stone or he will be a stumbling stone.
- d. Jesus will accept you as you are, but you must accept him as He is.
- e. Get it nailed down today!