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**Hour of Power Bible Study**

**Series: The Roman Road**

Taught by Pastor Kevin A. Kelly

Along our journey on the Roman Road, We’ve seen our Wrongness, Our Righteousness, Our Deadness and Our Newness.

When we get to chapters 9 and 10 of the book of Romans, there is another important theme that’s essential to every person that pursues God!!

Paul focused his writing on Israel (The Jewish People) that pursued God, but not according to faith in God!

(They attempted to attain God, without putting faith in God)

*Romans 9:31 says “But Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness, why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law…”*

Chapter 9 and 10 is expressly about Israel’s ignorant zealous pursuit of God that caused them to be Religious without being Righteous!

The point of this evening’s lesson is to draw a comparative conclusion that there’s a difference in being Religious and being Righteous!

**Topic: “Being Religious is not the same as being Righteous”**

The Jews of Paul’s day were the epitome of Religious pursuit!

-They performed their ceremonies

-They did their good deeds

-They looked to the law

They had religious fervor, but they lacked Righteous faith!

The Jews had enthusiastic diligence and eager desire!

When Paul considered Israel, He saw something that other’s looking at Israel could not see. Paul saw that Israel was not saved!!

We see Paul’s prayer for Israel’s salvation!

***“Bretheren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved”.***

Paul’s concern and condemnation of Israel teaches us that Its possible to be sincere and passionate about God through religion and still be lost!! This was the condition of Israel, as Paul made reference to them!

Paul said, in verse 2, *“for I bear them record, that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge…”*

Paul had a problem with Israel’s religion!

(He understood their condition, because at one point in his life, it had been his position) Before obeying the gospel Paul had been zealously religious! *Gal. 1:14 “And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions”.*

1. **They had a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge**

This word knowledge is epignosis, which means “real knowledge” or “true knowledge”. Gnosis is the word for common knowledge and the prefix epi means “over” or “above”,

Paul raises the detriment of zeal without knowledge!

*They had excitement without enlightment*

\*Paul’s pre-gospel life testimony is a witness of the danger of having zeal without knowledge. (He caused havoc in the church). Phil. 3:6 “persecuting the church”.

1. **They were ignorant of God’s righteousness**

They knew religion, but had no real knowledge of Righteousness

Ignorance, is often the result of openly rejecting truth!

1. **They were seeking to establish their own righteousness**

The end result of the ignorance of God’s righteousness is Self-Righteousness!

It’s when we propose another standard other than God! And when we reject God’s righteousness, we subject ourselves and others to our self-righteousness!

Summary: All of Paul’s argument, was purposed so that the knowledge of the gospel of Righteousness:

Could work in their lives

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So that their faith could become energized by Information and not Emotion!