

## “Willful Ignorance of the Law’s Culmination”

Romans 10:1-4

February 20, 2022

### I. Prayers for the Jews (10:1)

- A. Paul prayed fervently for the salvation of his fellow Jews.
- B. An awareness of God’s sovereignty over salvation should *not* stop us from desiring and praying for the salvation of others.

### II. Zeal Among the Jews (10:2a)

- A. The Jews were zealous for God in way the Gentiles were not.
- B. But their zeal was an ignorant zeal.

### III. Ignorance Among the Jews (10:2b-4)

- A. 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews were ignorant of the righteousness status from God now being revealed and given in Christ.
- B. Yet their ignorance was in a true sense willful; they truly did not want to know (Acts 7:51-58).
- C. They did not want to know that they couldn’t establish their *own* righteousness before God.
- D. They didn’t want to know that Jesus was the *culmination* of the law unto righteousness for *all* who *believed*.

- 1. The Mosaic Law all *pointed* to Christ.

*John 5:46 - For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.*

*Luke 24:27 - Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.*



- 2. The Mosaic Law was fully *fulfilled* by Christ.

*Matthew 5:17–18 - <sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”*

- 3. The Mosaic Law’s role was *annulled* by Christ.

*Colossians 2:16–17 - <sup>16</sup> Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— <sup>17</sup> things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.*

*Hebrews 8:13 - When He said, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.*

- 4. Christ’s culmination of the law challenged the Jews’ moralistic and nationalistic pride.
  - a. Receiving Christ’s righteousness by faith nullified one’s own moral efforts to attain salvation.
  - b. The fact that *anyone* could believe and receive Christ’s righteousness meant salvation was no longer exclusive to Israel.

- E. Necessary reminders for us today:

- 1. Christ being the law’s culmination does not mean we’re not still called to obey the law’s moral aspects.
- 2. It does mean we must approach the law by faith in Christ:
  - a. Recognizing that He has perfectly obeyed where we have failed, securing our heavenly welcome already.
  - b. Calling on the Spirit to transform us into Christ’s image.

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