

**“Unbelievers Held Responsible; Believers Never Put to Shame”**

**Romans 9:30-33**

**February 13, 2022**

**→ Theological Introduction**

- A. In Romans 9:6-29, Paul has been addressing the question of Israel’s unbelief from the perspective of God’s complete sovereignty over human salvation.
- B. In Romans 9:30-10, Paul answers the question from the perspective of human responsibility (HR).
  - 1. The biblical truth of HR does not deny God’s full control over who is saved and who is not.
  - 2. And HR is not meant to be combined with God’s sovereignty (It’s not 50%-God’s sovereignty + 50%-HR = 100% salvation)
  - 3. The Biblical truth of HR reminds us that our fully sovereign God still holds people responsible for their sins (including their failure to believe).

*Acts 2:23, 37-38 - <sup>23</sup> this Man [Jesus], delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death... <sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

**I. Different Pursuits with Different Outcomes (Rom. 9:30-31)**

- A. The Gentiles were not seeking a righteous status before the true God, yet they received one when they believed in Jesus.
- B. The Jews sought a righteous status from the Law but failed to attain it.

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**II. Why the Jews Failed in Their Pursuit (Rom. 9:32-33)**

- A. They did not recognize that the righteousness displayed in the law can only be received by faith.
- B. When Christ, the embodiment of righteousness came, the Jews willfully rejected Him.
  - 1. They were offended by Him and the notion that they needed a righteousness beyond their moral efforts.

2. They stumbled over the Stumbling Stone.
  3. For this, they will be held responsible.
- C. The prophet Isaiah had predicted this stumble hundreds of years before.
1. But he had also predicted that some would believe in the Messianic Stone.
  2. And those who do believe in Him would never be *put to shame*.
    - a. In the Old Testament, being *put to shame* meant being subject to public and eternal scorn and assigned to hell at the day of judgment.
    - b. But, believers in Christ are promised that they will never endure such a fate!
    - c. Instead, they will be welcomed and owned before all heaven and earth as God's dear children.

