

Zealous Ignorance

Key Scriptures

Rom. 10:1-13 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." ⁶ But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) ⁷ or, "'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.

¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Key Point: Election is not from lineage or merit, but God's mercy alone.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Outside of your faith, what things are you very zealous about?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- If election is settled in eternity past, how can prayers in the present have an impact on election's outworking?
- Paul's constant ministry for the saved, as well as the unsaved, was a ministry of prayer. What does his emphasis on prayer teach us about God's sovereignty and human responsibility? (Rom. 1:10, 15:30-31; 2 Cor. 13:7; Eph. 1:15-23; 3:16-17, 6:18-20; Col. 1:9-10, 4:3-4; 1 Thess. 5:17, 25; 2 Thess. 1:11-12, 3:1-2; 1 Tim. 2:1; 5:5; 2 Tim. 1:3).
- In verse 4, the key word to interpret is the word "end." This Greek word "telos," can be understood in different ways here: purpose/goal/fulfillment, termination/conclusion. How does each sense of the word change the meaning of the statement?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Are you someone who needs to add zeal to your knowledge, or knowledge to your zeal?
- How would you describe our righteous in comparison to the righteousness of God?
- The sermon by Jonathan Edwards "*The Justice of God in the Damnation of sinners*" had four points: If God should forever cast you off, it would be exactly agreeable to your treatment of Him (of Jesus Christ, of others, and toward yourself). What were your thoughts about this?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Each day this week, choose to stop trying to establish your own righteousness and justify yourself. Prayerfully admit your need for God's righteousness in your life and depend on the Holy Spirit to work in you to bear fruit.

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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