

TWO VIEWS

ROMANS 10

Not everyone who is spiritual is on the right path.

Romans 10:1-2 Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved. ²I know what enthusiasm they have for God, but it is misdirected zeal.

There are two competing views of being made right with God.

Romans 10:3-4 For they don't understand God's way of making people right with himself. Refusing to accept God's way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God by trying to keep the law. ⁴For Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given. As a result, all who believe in him are made right with God.

Two competing view of being made right with God:

Where did the people get their misunderstanding?

The Jews got their misunderstanding from the written law.

God's law of obedience is written on our hearts.

Romans 2:13-15 For merely listening to the law doesn't make us right with God. It is obeying the law that makes us right in his sight. ¹⁴ Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. ¹⁵ They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. NLT

This law shows us that we fall short.

Romans 3:19-20 Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. ²⁰ For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. NLT

Obeying the Law makes us right with God, but we can't obey the Law at the level we need to be made right with God.

Romans 10:5 For Moses writes that the law's way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands. NLT

Galatians 5:3 Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. NIV84

All religious views are rooted in these basics.

Two cautions in communicating the message of Jesus:

Man's way is hard. God's way is simple.

Romans 10:5 For Moses writes that the law's way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands. NLT

Romans 10:6-8 But faith's way of getting right with God says, "Don't say in your heart, 'Who will go up to heaven?' (to bring Christ down to earth). ⁷ And don't say, 'Who will go down to the place of the dead?' (to bring Christ back to life again)." ⁸ In fact, it says,

"The message is very close at hand;
it is on your lips and in your heart."

And that message is the very message about faith that we preach:

Here's the good news (gospel).

Romans 10:8-10 And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: ⁹ If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

This message is true for everyone.

Romans 10:11-12a As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." ¹² Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect.

The same Lord saves all who call on him.

Romans 10:12b-13 They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. ¹³ For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."

People need to hear about the right way!

Romans 10:14-16 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? ¹⁵ And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"