

#10: **BOTH HANDS ALWAYS**

When you are learning to ride a bike, you start with both hands firmly gripping the handlebars! ...

REVIEW OF LAST WEEK**IV. ROMANS 9-11 “The present condition and future prospects of Israel”**

- The Jews were “the *pilot project*,” and so their experience is *relevant and helpful*.

“ISRAEL’S PRESENT CONDITION”

The ways of God can always be looked at from two distinct perspectives:

The one perspective → *God’s sovereign rule over all mankind*

Romans 9:23-30

- Vs. 23 He did so to make known the riches of His glory
- Vs. 23 ...vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory
- Vs. 24 ...us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.
- Vs.25 "I WILL CALL THOSE WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, 'MY PEOPLE,' AND HER WHO WAS NOT BELOVED, 'BELOVED.'
- Vs. 28 THE LORD WILL EXECUTE HIS WORD ON THE EARTH, THOROUGHLY AND QUICKLY.
- Vs. 29 THE LORD ... LEFT TO US A POSTERITY
- Vs. 30 Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness

The ways of God can always be looked at from two distinct perspectives:

The other perspective → *Mankind’s moral responsibility*

Romans 9:31-33

- Vs. 31 Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law.
- Vs. 32 they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works
- Vs. 32 They stumbled over the stumbling stone
- Vs. 33 HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

NOTES:

1. Two handles on these handlebars. Grip firmly.

(Just like with **the Trinity** and **the Hypostatic Union** and **our identity as an individual Christian and as a part of a church**.)

And **our intention to impact London AND to be more “all about missions”**)

2. The one handle is **NOT** “*man’s free will*” ...

a) Its implications complicate an already complicated thing: “*free*”?; “*will*”?

b) The phrase “free will” tends to be used to mean “man’s sovereign rule over his own life”

[By the way, the WLBI notes are now online under **RESOURCES**, under **Study Tools**]

Now, with both aspects of the mystery in mind,
Paul proceeds to explain the present condition of Israel... *and it's a warning to us!*

"ISRAEL'S PRESENT CONDITION: A SERIOUS WARNING"

Romans 10:1-21

1. WARNING! Zeal for God is not enough: what we need is righteousness

When it comes to being **Right with God?** We have two choices:

Vs. 5 "the righteousness which is based on law" → ← **Vs. 6** "the righteousness based on faith"

The one choice is impossible for us. The other is not impossible! (Not easy, just NOT impossible: "Only believe!")

Here Paul is explaining "the righteousness based on faith" **from the perspective of human responsibility.**

- **Vs. 8** "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"
- **Vs. 9** if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;
- **Vs. 13** "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

2. WARNING! Each one of us is responsible to "trust and obey" Christ.

- **Vs. 14** How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
- **Vs. 14** How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard?
- **Vs. 14** And how will they hear without a preacher?
- **Vs. 15** How will they preach unless they are sent?

3. WARNING! People can't trust and obey Christ if they have never heard of Him!

In other words, we are responsible to evangelize: to communicate the "good news of good things"

OF THOSE WE ARE CONNECTED TO...Some we have done all we can do / Some we have done only some of what we can do! / Some we have not begun to do anything!!!

So we should get going. But as we do so, we must keep both hands on the handlebars always!

Paul has both hands on the handlebars, so he returns to the other perspective.

"The righteousness attained by faith" **from the perspective of God's divine sovereignty**

- **Vs. 17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ
- **Vs. 19.** "I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION, BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU."
- **Vs. 20** "I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME, I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME."

God can turn a bad thing around, and no one can stop him. And Romans 11 will explain that He plans to!

IV. ROMANS 9-11 "The present condition and future prospects of Israel"

IV. ROMANS 11 "The future prospects of Israel"