

14. Why is it crucial to understand that we're not saved by faith PLUS works, but rather by faith FOR good works (*Ephesians 2:8-10*)?

15. How can we pray for each other this week?



Message #67: A Right and a Wrong Way

September 27, 2015

Sermon Notes

Quotes to Ponder

Those who have received salvation are to attribute it to sovereign grace alone, and to give all the praise to Him, who makes them to differ from others.

Jonathan Edwards

Any plan of salvation which gives no offense to self-righteous men, is certainly not of God.

Charles Simeon

Men look for something big. God put Christ into this world as a low-lying stone, hid away among the tall grass of a distant Roman province. Men held their eyes too high & walked across the world, not seeing Christ as God's only answer to their problems, & they tripped over Him & stumbled when they came upon Him suddenly. They were offended by a scheme of salvation which brings man to nothingness, & they refused God's way.

Donald Grey Barnhouse

The designations of a stone and a rock are given to Jesus Christ, both presenting the idea that the great work of redemption rests solely on Him. He is its author, the foundation on which it rests, the center in which all its lines meet, and the origin from which they proceed.... In another sense, He is a stone of stumbling, occasioning His rejection by those who, not believing in Him, are cut off from communion with God.

Robert Haldane

*By His own determination, God **will not save** a person who does not believe in His Son, no matter how sincere and heartfelt. In God's sovereign order, both His gracious provision and the exercise of man's will are required for salvation. Like many other revelations in Scripture, those two truths cannot be fully harmonized by reason, only accepted by faith.*

John MacArthur

1. Two Groups — Two Destinies

A. Gentiles

B. Jews

2. Stumbling Stone

A. Exclusivity of Jesus

B. Offense of the Cross

C. Simplicity of Salvation

1. What in the text or sermon impacted you most? What encouraged you? Convicted you? Confused you?

2. Why is it important to keep God's sovereignty and man's responsibility in balance in our thinking? How does Paul balance them in *Romans 9*?

3. What are the contrasts in *Romans 9:30-31*?

4. What does Paul mean when he says that the Gentiles did not pursue righteousness and yet they attained it (*Romans 9:30*)?

5. What does it mean that Israel pursued a *law of righteousness* but did not attain it (*Romans 9:31*)?

6. What reason(s) does Paul give for many Jews not attaining righteousness (*Romans 9:31-32*)?

What was wrong with the way Israel pursued righteousness?

7. Before Paul believed in the gospel, did he think he was righteous (*Philippians 3:2-11*)? Why?

8. What caused the Jews to stumble (*Romans 9:32b-33*)?

9. Who is the *stumbling stone* and *rock of offense* (*Romans 9:32b-33*)?

10. What do these verses add to our understanding of the rock/stone analogy throughout Scripture?

Psalms 118:22 —

Luke 20:17-18 —

Isaiah 8:14 —

Acts 4:10-12 —

Isaiah 28:16 —

1 Corinthians 1:23 —

Matthew 7:24-25 —

1 Peter 2:4-8 —

Matthew 21:42 —

11. Who is responsible for someone being saved? Explain.

12. Who is responsible for someone not being saved? Explain.

13. Humanly speaking, who is more difficult to reach with the gospel: a good, religious person or a gross sinner?

How should our approach differ with each of these types?