

# The Gospel of Paul (17)

## A Matter of Belief

Romans 9:30-10:13

### Intro: When Smart People Do Dumb Things

#### I. Misguided Zeal (v. 30-4)

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Consider Paul's heartfelt desire that the Jews would be saved... in light of the fact that they were persecuting Paul! What are your normal attitudes toward those who attack you? What does the example of Paul say to you?
2. Paul points to the misguided zeal of the Jews. They worked really hard ... for the wrong thing. Share an example of this from your own life (maybe a business venture, a poorly chosen relationship, or even your attitudes toward God early in your faith journey).
3. The Jews were trying to BEHAVE (righteousness by works), but Paul is urging them to BELIEVE (righteousness by faith). Why do you think Paul sees belief as the crucial component? What is the relationship between right thoughts and right actions? How have you struggled with the temptation to modify behavior in your own strength?
4. As you think on the INTERNAL (believe in your heart) and EXTERNAL (confess with your mouth) components of faith, which comes more naturally, and which is harder for you? Why?

#### II. Believing vs Doing (v. 5-13)

### Conclusion: When Humble People Call on the Lord