

Romans 9-10

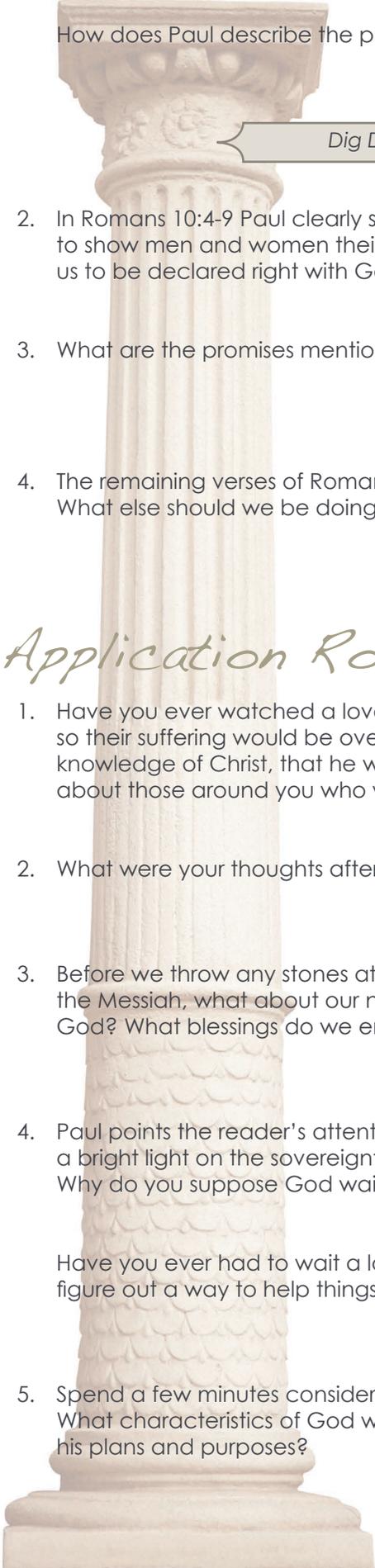
In Romans 7 and 8 we see the transparency of the apostle Paul. In Romans 9 Paul shares his greatest sorrow. In Romans 10 he shares his heart's desire and on-going prayer to God. Do you have something causing you great sorrow? Does it seem like you have been praying for the same thing for so long you wonder if it will ever happen? Paul could relate. Sorrows and prayers like these often involve those we love and care about deeply. Let's not give up; let's keep praying. God loves them more than we can imagine.

Observation Romans 9

1. Paul states in verses 1-3, that he has great sorrow and unceasing anguish in his heart. Why is he so sorrowful? What is breaking his heart?
2. Paul goes on and describes his people, the Israelites in verses 4-5. What is theirs by God's grace? Underline them first in your Bible then list them below.
3. Paul gives a brief history lesson concerning Abraham. What do you learn about him in verses 6-9?
4. Paul goes on in verses 10-16 to point out some facts concerning the sons of Isaac. What did you learn about these two sons?
5. The third example Paul refers to is Pharaoh. What did you learn about God's plans and purposes?
6. In Romans 9:25-33 Paul addresses his beloved brothers and sisters, the Israelite community. Paul quotes the prophets Hosea (verses 25-26) and Isaiah (verses 27-29) to remind them that being born a Jew does not automatically make you a child of God. Remember, God's purpose in choosing the descendants of Abraham was to demonstrate his marvelous love and provision for all nations to see. What had many of the Israelites done in order to obtain righteousness before God? Were they successful?
7. Read Romans 9:30-33 in several different translations. I especially like the Message translation. What is the stone that Israel stumbled over?

Observation Romans 10

1. In Romans 10, Paul makes it very clear that his heart's desire is to see his fellow Israelites turn to God with a humble heart and be saved. He testifies to their zeal for God which is obvious by their actions and sacrifices. What did they lack?



How does Paul describe the problem in verses 1-3?

Dig Deeper: Look up the word "submit" used in verse 3.

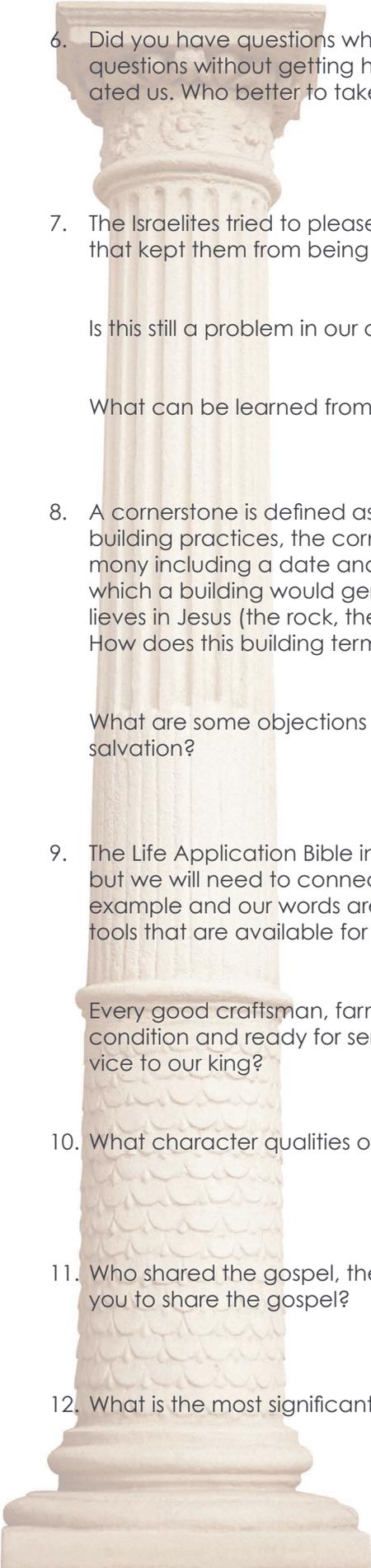
2. In Romans 10:4-9 Paul clearly states that Christ is the fulfillment of the law. The purpose of the law was to show men and women their true condition in light of the one true and holy God. What is required of us to be declared right with God?
3. What are the promises mentioned in Romans 10:11-13, for all who believe?
4. The remaining verses of Romans 10 call all believers to more than simply provide a good example. What else should we be doing to help others come to a saving knowledge of Christ?

Application Romans 9 & 10

1. Have you ever watched a loved one suffer in pain and wished you could just trade places with them so their suffering would be over? Paul so desperately wanted his fellow Jews to come to a saving knowledge of Christ, that he wished he could change places with them. Do you find yourself thinking about those around you who will not listen to the good news? Do you grieve for those who are still lost?
2. What were your thoughts after writing the list of all the ways God had blessed Israel from verses 4-5?
3. Before we throw any stones at the Jews who were abundantly blessed by God, but didn't recognize the Messiah, what about our nation? What are some of the ways our nation has been blessed by God? What blessings do we enjoy that would leave us without excuse?
4. Paul points the reader's attention back to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in verses 6-16. Their stories shine a bright light on the sovereignty of God. God made Abraham a promise, and he faithfully fulfilled it. Why do you suppose God waited for so many years?

Have you ever had to wait a long time for an answer? Were you tempted like Sarah and Abraham to figure out a way to help things work out a little quicker?

5. Spend a few minutes considering Romans 9:15-16. This can be a difficult passage of Scripture for some. What characteristics of God will we need to be acquainted with if we are going to willingly submit to his plans and purposes?



6. Did you have questions when you read Romans 9:17-23? Write out your questions. God can hear our questions without getting his feelings hurt. He understands the frailty of our emotions—after all he created us. Who better to take our questions to than our gracious heavenly Father?

7. The Israelites tried to please God with their sacrifices and legalistic acts of worship. What did they lack that kept them from being right with God?

Is this still a problem in our current society? If so, in what ways might we see this today?

What can be learned from Israel's response to God's plan of salvation?

8. A cornerstone is defined as a stone which lies at the corner of two walls and unites them. In ancient building practices, the cornerstone was carefully designed and often commemorated with a ceremony including a date and inscription. The cornerstone of a new building symbolized the "seed" from which a building would germinate and rise. Romans 9:33-10:9 clearly teaches that the one who believes in Jesus (the rock, the chief cornerstone laid as a foundation stone) will never be put to shame. How does this building term relate to Jesus?

What are some objections people have today that keep them from accepting God's gracious gift of salvation?

9. The Life Application Bible includes this note about verse 14, "Modeling the Christian life is important, but we will need to connect the mind of the unbeliever and the message of the gospel." Our living example and our words are both tools in the Master's hands. Would you say your life and words are tools that are available for the Master today?

Every good craftsman, farmer, builder or businessman knows the value of tools that are kept in good condition and ready for service. What are some ways we can be better prepared and ready for service to our king?

10. What character qualities of God have you seen in these two chapters of Romans?

11. Who shared the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, with you? What are some ways God can use you to share the gospel?

12. What is the most significant truth you have seen this week as you studied God's word?