

THE PASTOR'S *ESSENTIALS*®

OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

¹³ "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. ¹⁴ BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.
MATTHEW 7:13-14

es-sen-tials (ĭ-sĕn'shĕlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

The Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Romans

A BIBLE STUDY

SESSION ELEVEN

Romans 9:30-10:21

Questions for Session Eleven

1. Explain the irony Paul presents in vv. 30-31. What is the only thing that makes us truly righteous? How did the Jews seek God's righteousness, and what was the outcome? What was the outcome for the Gentiles, who were not seeking it?

2. How are we to explain to the *unchurched* or to *nominal Christians* the way God's righteousness is imparted to humanity? Why do people stumble over this concept? Why is human nature suspect of anything that is free? Explain the concept of *works' righteousness*.

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3. What does Paul mean in v. 2 when he refers to the Jews as having a *zeal for God, but it is not enlightened*? What did the Jews fail to do according to v. 3? How do we respond to this in our lives today? How does Paul describe Christ in v. 4?

4. What does Moses say regarding the law from Deuteronomy 30:12-14? What do you think he means when he refers to the *word* being near you? Why is Paul quoting Moses here in particular?

5. What does Paul proclaim in v. 9? In v. 10 Paul says we are to believe with something and confess with something else. Explain each one. What does it take to be justified? What is the process?

6. Explain vv. 12-13. How does this play into Paul's theology of salvation with respect to the Gentiles becoming Jews *first* and then becoming Christians? Did Paul's teaching run *parallel to* or *conflict with* the teaching in the Jerusalem church? Explain.

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7. We read in vv. 14-15 a wonderful model for evangelism. What do these two verses suggest to all, who have received and believed? What can happen when the good news of Jesus Christ is proclaimed? Do some people reject it?

8. How is the good news transmitted according to v. 17? Explain the reaction of the people Israel to the good news? How does God finally describe the chosen people in v. 21?

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