

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHY DON'T ALL JEWS GO TO HEAVEN?

Romans 10

Romans (Not Ashamed) — Week 26

ICEBREAKER: What are you thankful for?

OVERVIEW: Why doesn't God let everyone go to heaven? At the time of Christ, the common belief among the Jews was that all Jews go to heaven by virtue of their relationship to Abraham. This doctrine was challenged by the gospel which claimed that the only way to heaven was by faith in Jesus Christ. In Romans 10, Paul explains why all Jews don't go to heaven, and in the process the reason that God doesn't save everyone. In this discussion we will go deeper with how to go to heaven according to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
 2. The belief that everyone goes to heaven is called universalism. Why is universalism so appealing?
 3. Is universalism biblical? Explain.
 4. Recently the Christian actor Kirk Cameron changed his mind on hell, rejecting the traditional doctrine of eternal conscious punishment and subscribing to annihilationism. According to annihilationism, while unbelievers don't go to heaven, they also don't spend eternity in hell, but instead cease to exist after death. Is annihilationism biblical? Explain.
 5. Read John 3:16-18.
 - a. What must you do to inherit eternal life?
 - b. What is the fate of those who don't believe in Jesus?
- c. What does it mean to "believe" in Jesus for eternal life?
 - d. Jesus said He did not come to condemn the world but to save it. Does this affirm universalism? Explain.
 - e. After reading this passage, can it be concluded that Jesus taught universalism or even the idea that all Jews go to heaven? Explain.
6. Refer to the sermon for the following questions. Read Romans 10:1, and then Romans 9:1-3. What can we learn from Paul about being an effective evangelist?
 7. Read Romans 10:2-3. Paul said that the Jews didn't lack zeal, but zeal was not enough for salvation. Today people make a similar mistake by assuming that it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere. Why is zeal or sincerity not sufficient for salvation?
 8. Read Romans 10:9-13. How did Paul explain the conditions for salvation?
 9. What did Paul mean in verse 12?
 10. Read Romans 10:21. Why don't all Jews go to heaven? Why doesn't everyone go to heaven?

The Last Word: How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.