

Romans 10:4

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There is a common phrase you may hear from time to time, “looking for happiness in all the wrong places.” You may hear this phrase spoken about someone who is chasing after money or fame or accomplishment in order to find happiness. All of us desire to be happy, and at times we find ourselves not feeling happy, so we go looking for happiness anywhere we can. This often leads us in the wrong direction, hence, we end up looking for happiness in all the wrong places.

Sometimes we may think that the Bible and the people we read about in the Bible are so different from us that we can't relate with them. If you have thought this before it would be good to be reminded of Ecclesiastes 1:9, “What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.” We truly aren't as different from those we read about in the pages of scriptures than we might think. The book of Romans gives us a prime example.

At one point in the book of Romans, Paul writes about his own people, Jewish people, who do not know Jesus as their Savior. He expresses that what they are attempting to do is establish their own righteousness (10:3). They understand they have a need for righteousness, so they are working hard to obey all the laws of God to attain this righteous requirement. Paul says they are ignorant of God's righteousness, meaning they do not know about the righteousness from God that is available to them. Often this is similar to the way we are. There is something inside of us that loves the idea of being able to do things for ourselves. Being dependent on no one else appeals to us. So we can find ourselves in the trap of believing our righteousness before God is wrapped up in how good we are or how much we obey. If we apply the saying to this, we are looking for righteousness in all the wrong places.

In the book of Jeremiah, God called Jeremiah to prophesy against the leaders of Israel for how they had mistreated his people. In the judgement, God also gives a promise: that there was going to come a day when God would provide a king who will rule over his people “and this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness’” (Jeremiah 23:6). God made a promise to his people back in the days of Jeremiah, and we know when God makes promises, He always keeps them.

This is why Paul says in Romans 10:4 that Christ is the end of the law, meaning the law points to Him. The law points to Christ, and He is our righteousness to everyone who believes. See, we don't need to look for righteousness in the things we do; we need to look for it in Christ. His righteousness is ours, if we believe.

This Christmas we are reminded that God keeps his promises. He promised to Jeremiah that there would be a king to rule over his people who would be called “the Lord is our righteousness.” That king entered human history as a baby born to a virgin. That baby was a fulfillment of the promise God gave to Jeremiah. That baby is Jesus, and He is our righteousness, if we believe.