

# Why Religious People Go to Hell

Romans 9:30-10:4 | June 22, 2014

## **Intro:** Two ways to learn from mistakes: cheap (others) or expensive (yours).

- Learning from Israel's mistake (9:30-31)

## **Remember:**

1. Context:
  - Q: Can God's promises be trusted?
  - A: Yes, God's true Israel has been preserved by sovereign mercy.
2. Paul's Heart: 10:1
  - God's Sovereignty & Man's Responsibility is a paradox—seems contradictory, but isn't.
  - **Light is both waves & particles.**

## **The Situation:** 9:30-31

- **Like Taylor University crash & mistaken identity (April 2006).**
  - **Laura VanRyn & Whitney Cerak (1,400 attended funeral).**
  - Can you imagine thinking your daughter was dead/alive but is now alive/dead?

## **FOUR REASONS RELIGIOUS PEOPLE GO TO HELL.**

- Good day to be here! Whether Christian or not.

### **1. Religious people think they can get righteousness through works. (9:32)**

- Key word: "*righteousness*" (8x) – **Wordle Image**.
- For Jews: kosher, Sabbath, keep commandments.
  - For Us: religious stuff, **parenting, American Dream, security**.
- Remember **Romans 3:20-22!**

### **2. Religious people stumble over Jesus. (9:32-33)**

- **Pharisees hated Jesus because:**
  - **He loved messy people.**
  - **His message confronted their pride – seemed too easy.**
- One way to avoid Jesus: be *really bad*
- Another way: be *really good*.
  - **"The main thing between you and God is not so much your sins; it's your damnable good works." (John Gerstner) – seminary prof**

### **3. Religious people have zeal without knowledge. (10:2)**

- **Paul is perfect example.**
- Completely contradicts, *“It doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you’re sincere.”*
  - **Give a kid with peanut allergies a PB&J and see what happens.**
  - **Terrorists.**

### **4. Religious people won’t submit to God’s way of righteousness. (10:3-4)**

- Not innocent ignorance, but rebellion.
- **“Christ is the end of the law” (v. 4)**
  - **Like a race course – finish line is the *termination* and the *goal*.**
  - The law is fulfilled in Jesus...
    - **Matthew 5:17 /17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.**
  - ...and his righteousness is applied to everyone who believes.

**Will you repent of your righteousness and trust Jesus’ righteousness instead?**