

**Introduction**

1. Romans 9-11 a most interesting section
2. It shows how Israel has gone wrong
3. The lesson is crucial for us all

**1. THE TRAGEDY OF HAVING A FALSE RELIGION**

- 1) The case of the Jews here is a warning:
  - (i) they had godly forefathers
  - (ii) they had the Holy Scriptures
  - (iii) they had other privileges: v.4-5
- 2) But they clearly went wrong in religion:
  - (i) v.31: "not attained". Worthless religion.
  - (ii) they went wrong in a vital point
- 3) This made clear by Paul:
  - (i) v.32: "not of faith, but...by the works..."
  - (ii) This is the classic mistake in religion  
**APPLICATION**: Do you understand the Gospel?

**2. WHY PEOPLE STUMBLE OVER THE GOSPEL**

- 1) God has given us a gospel which it is possible to stumble over:  
**ILLUSTRATION**: a man who catches his foot
- 2) What are the reasons for this?
  - (i) unbelief sees nothing good in Christ
  - (ii) still less in his Cross
  - (iii) the message is offensive
  - (iv) it is all about the heart
  - (v) it offers blessing to the very worst
  - (vi) it rebukes the self-righteous

- (vii) it levels us all out as equally in need of God's mercy  
**ILLUSTRATION**: The Pharisee + Publican  
**APPLICATION**: Do you understand Luke 20:18?

**3. THE COMFORT OF TRUE BELIEVERS IN CHRIST**

- 1) All who believe are given comfort: "not be ashamed"
- 2) At every point we need to believe:
  - (i) our view of Christ as Saviour
  - (ii) the wisdom of God in this
- 3) The faith that saves has repentance:
  - (i) Job's experience
  - (ii) Isaiah's experience
  - (iii) Paul on the Damascus Road
- 4) The great problem is always Justification  
**ILLUSTRATION**: "men as trees walking"  
**APPLICATION**: You can only be saved BY FAITH

**4. THE RELEVANCE OF THIS TO US ALL**

- 1) Faith is essential at every point:
  - (i) our view of the Origins of Life
  - (ii) our view of life after death
  - (iii) our attitude to the Bible
  - (iv) our grasp of the Way of Salvation
- 2) What to do if faith is feeble: "Lord, help my unbelief".
- 3) Look at Hebrews 11  
**OBSERVE**: The sad case of the Jews.  
**APPLICATION**: Faith alone saves us.

**CONCLUSION**

1. Are you stumbling?
2. God can lift you up
3. Do you want to be saved?

**PSALM****33: 8 – 14****32: 1 – 5****32: 8 – 11**