



Dear Phil

“If the Jews are God’s chosen people, then why do they not believe in Jesus? Will they go to Heaven? —Aaron

Dear Aaron,

Paul answers this question in Romans. In Rom. 9:1-5 Paul says that he has great sorrow and anguish in his heart for his fellow Jews. He was even willing to be damned if that would result in the salvation of the people God had chosen and blessed so much. In Rom. 10:1-4 Paul tells us why the Jews have not believed. Rather than accepting the righteousness that comes from God through faith in Jesus, they have attempted to make themselves righteous before God by keeping the law. But no one can ever justify himself before God by keeping the law (Gal. 3:11). Doing good never cancels out sin.

However, there is still hope for the Jews. In Romans 11:17-24, Paul uses the imagery of an olive tree to explain the condition of the Jews. They are “branches” that have been broken out of the olive tree because of their unbelief (11:20). Gentiles (that includes you and me) are grafted into the olive tree through faith in Christ

(11:17-20). If a Jew will turn to Christ and believe that God has provided an atonement for his sins through Christ, he will be grafted back into the olive tree (11:23-24). At the same time, Paul warns the Gentiles that if they do not continue in faith, they can be cut out just like the Jews were (11:21-22).

You may be wondering what the “olive tree” is. The olive tree is the line of believers that began with Abraham, the spiritual father of all believers (Rom. 4:16) and the physical father of all Jews. Romans 9:6ff is Paul’s explanation of why all the descendants of Abraham are not

automatically saved: *only those who believe in Christ (9:33) are considered part of Abraham’s spiritual descendants.* The good news that Jesus died and rose again so that we might be saved is still the power of God to save men, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile (Rom. 1:17).

Sincerely,
PHILIP ■

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THE WORLD TO WIN continued

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MONTANA

“Thirty-five years ago Rev. and Mrs. Robert Pelton first set foot on the campus of Northwest Indian Bible School in Alberton, Montana, where Brother Pelton served as the first president of NIBS.... He and his wife, Marsena Ruth French ...have had many years of teaching experience in Bible schools and colleges. Their missionary labors have not only included the Native Americans but also the dear people of China.... **Brother and Sister Pelton have sensed God’s peace and direction as they return to the NIBS campus to assume the position as interim president of Northwest Indian Bible School.** —*Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist*

RUSSIA

“The Good News is still welcome in many places in Russia! **Please pray with us that the distribution of 30,000 more New Testaments will go forward.** A long-range answer to prayer has been the new center in

the village of Kalinina. For several months we have been holding youth meetings there. Now we have a name for our center—“Kovchek”—which means “The Ark.” Our “Ark” has landed in a good location for reaching many people. Please pray that [it] will be a place of safety and salvation for many young lives.” —*Richard and Judy Grout (Hope International Missions).*

UKRAINE

“Please pray for the Jason Sturtevant and the Drummonds in Ukraine. **They had a service in a remote village Sunday afternoon, and the people want them to come back each Sunday.** Jason reports that they are now running up to 30 children each week in children’s services and almost that many teenagers in the teen gathering. They also have started church services each Sunday morning at the Drummonds’ house. —*Steve Sturtevant (Arms Around the World).* ■