



Daily Verse and Comment

[Romans 10:1-3](#)

(1) Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. (2) For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. (3) Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

New International Version

What we observe in [the world](#) around us confirms that end-time Israel is following the same spiritual pattern that our ancestors established anciently. Human nature does not change. These verses verify that some knowledge of [God](#) remains within the [Israelitish nations](#).

However, theirs is not an enlightened, discerning, and intelligent zeal for God. Rather, God says in [Hosea 4:6](#) that His people—in this case meaning ancient Israel—are destroyed for a lack of true knowledge. God then lays the greater blame on the teachers for their failure to teach truth. *The Interpreter's Commentary* says that "ignorant" in [Romans 10:3](#) can correctly be translated as "ignoring," revealing a deliberate disregarding of God's righteousness.

The broader history of [Old Testament](#) Israel shows that God's Word was available, but the people did not access it to [seek God](#). Thus, their ignorance was not completely the teacher's fault; the people should have studied the Bible on their own. Paul explains in [Romans 1:18-21](#) that man is without excuse before Him because knowledge of God is available. The contrast Paul provides in [Romans 10:1-3](#) indicates that the teaching the Israelites received produced at best a vague, superficial base of knowledge about God. This is not a foundation of true knowledge that will work to produce a good relationship between God and man.

We can see an example of this kind of teaching in our time. Most of us have seen what is happening in so many churches these days, most especially in the [mega-churches](#). Their services come across as superficial entertainment that gives people an upbeat social experience that contains some religious instruction. They come up short in teaching high-quality biblical truths to enhance people's relationships with God. It has produced a people who believe that they are saved and [going to heaven](#) immediately after death, and who think God's laws are done away. They keep [Christmas](#) and [Easter](#), which are obviously pagan holidays, and at the same time fail to keep the Sabbaths, which both [Jesus](#) and Paul clearly kept.

How can they be following Christ when they do not do what He did and in fact do what pagans do? Where is God in the minds of those who conduct their lives like this? In truth, what they think about Him is nowhere near the truth because neither they nor their teachers make the effort to know Him ([John 17:3](#)).

They know some things *about* Him, but they do not know Him. If they did, they would be seeking Him, and He would be revealing truth. Where should they be seeking Him? They must begin in the Scriptures. In them, two things are beyond dispute: first, that God is the Supreme Sovereign over His creation, His purpose for creating it, and His plan for fulfilling it; and second, that man is responsible to this awesome Creator.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[**Living By Faith and God's Sovereignty**](#)

Related Topics:

[Christmas](#)

[Easter](#)

[God's Laws 'done away'](#)

[God's Sovereignty](#)

[Living by Faith](#)

[Mega Churches](#)

[Pagan Holidays](#)

[Relationship with God](#)

[Sovereignty of God](#)

Commentary copyright © 1992-2025 [Church of the Great God](#)
New International Version copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by [International Bible Society](#)