



*Jewish Believers and Christians working together for Israel's salvation since 1963*



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**S**halom my friend! This month we continue our look at Romans 9, 10 and 11. Last time, in Romans 10:5-11, we saw Paul prove that the Torah and faith are not in conflict with one another—on the contrary, faith is essential to the Torah, especially since the Torah points to the Messiah. Because of this reality, Paul is able

to illustrate how there is no need for anyone to search far-away places for either the righteousness of Torah or the salvation of the Messiah, because both are as near to us as the confession of our mouths, and the belief in our hearts. Finally, in verse nine, Paul penned arguably the most succinct declaration of the Good News in all of Scripture, stating “that

if you confess with your mouth, ‘יהושע, Yeshua is Master,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him out of the dead, you will be saved.” Based on this assertion, Paul then begins his next crucial discussion, beginning with Romans 10:12-13.

### No Difference

For there is no difference between יהודי, Y’hudiy [Jew] and Greek, for the same Master of all is rich to all those calling upon Him. For, “Everyone—whoever will call upon the Name of ADONAI, he will be saved.” (MJLT)

Perhaps one of the most powerful *and often misunderstood* concepts from Paul’s writings stems from his language about there being “no difference between יהודי, Y’hudiy [Jew] and Greek”. Ripped from its larger context, this phrase is usually taken to mean that whatever good, godly thing that God intended for the Jewish people—as the chosen, covenantal people—now belongs to Christians, since there is “no difference” between Jews and Gentiles. Eventually, this thinking feeds into full-on replacement theology, in which it is not that

Christians simply *share* the Jewish people’s standing and calling before God, but that Jewish people who believe in Yeshua give up their Jewishness in favor of a spiritual androgyny. Of course, this entire train of thought is foreign to the immediate context, and strips the “no difference” concept of its actual revolutionary truth.



### Update from Israel

This month, I heard from our ministry friend Baruch, who shared some of the things God is doing in his life in Ashdod. He wrote: “This month our congregation conducted three monthly outreach projects for new immigrants and those who are in need. I was part of them, serving the old and ill people, comforting and encouraging them. I also delivered some food packages to those who had not had opportunity to come to our meetings or to the distribution center, but still needed our support. By the way, I used my car which you helped to purchase after the previous one was stolen. So thank you again for that. You should know that the money which you donated two and a half years ago is still serving the people of Israel!”

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### Equal in Salvation

Rather than making a point about equality in ethnic identity—where one group takes an identity that is not theirs, while another group loses their own—Paul is speaking here about *equality in salvation*. Galatians 3:27-28, which was written about six years before Romans, helps clear up any misunderstanding:

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"My personal news is great: after huge efforts and long hours spent for study, I finally passed both the written and oral exams in the Ministry of Tourism and received my tour guide number and a temporary work permit; I am still waiting for the permanent one to be issued, but already started guiding tourists in our blessed land. So I want to thank you for standing behind me and praying for my success. I'm really appreciative for that. I wish to bear better fruit for the Lord using my new qualification, and I ask you as my faithful partners to also pray for that.

"Other good news is that my daughter Eva has become 'adult' enough to help me during the outreach projects. At least, she is able collect from the people the cards which are used during distributing the food packages! But most excitingly, my wife Lena has become pregnant and we will have another child in the beginning of the autumn."

For as many as were immersed to Messiah clothed *themselves* in Messiah; there is not here יהודי, Y'hudiy or Greek, there is not here slave nor freeman, there is not here male and female, for you are all one in Messiah ישוע, Yeshua. (MJLT)

As far as salvation in Messiah is concerned, there is "no difference" between a slave and a freeperson, a man and a woman, and a Jew and a Gentile. But this has never meant that all *distinctions* between different groups of people have been destroyed in the process. Just as men and women retain their distinct gender, anatomy and innumerable other characteristics, in Messiah, neither Jews nor Gentiles lose or replace their ethnicities. (See also Colossians 3:10-11.) In fact, the entire book of Romans demonstrates the many distinctions between believing Jews and Gentiles, *even in calling and purpose!* This idea, then, of there being "no difference" in salvation is, in a way, one of the climaxes of



Paul's entire letter: that despite all the myriad of distinctions that might otherwise separate and cause conflict between Jews and Gentiles, *in Messiah, there is no difference! Both Jews and Gentiles equally receive salvation through Yeshua*, because "Everyone—whoever will call upon the Name of ADONAI, he will be saved."

**Proclaim to the Jews**

Paul is bringing up this important point for a reason: namely, to make the argument for the proclamation of the Good News especially to Jews. Paul here is foreshadowing a major topic of Romans 9, 10, 11 about how the salvation of Israel affects everyone, especially *Gentiles!* If, then, there is "no difference" as far as salvation is concerned, Gentiles should be *at least* as concerned with the salvation of Jews as they are of other Gentiles! Any distinctions we have in ethnicity and calling ought to be insufficient to overshadow our equality in salvation. Instead, the sameness we share in Messiah should inspire us to reach out and bring into the fold those whom God first entrusted with bringing the Messiah to the world.



My friend, when you partner with MJMI, you help us do the work of making the Name of ADONAI a reality to unsaved Jewish people. We greatly need not only your prayers, but also your financial assistance, so that we can do our part to participate in the salvation of all Israel. Your donation of **\$10, \$25, \$100 or more** will help us accomplish our mission and vision to see all Israel come to know their Messiah. You can use the enclosed card and envelope, or visit [www.mjmi.org](http://www.mjmi.org) to send your much-needed donation today. And if you aren't already, please consider becoming a ministry partner, so that I will know we can count on your support each month.

There is still much work to be done, so let us all boldly proclaim the Good News of salvation found only in Messiah Yeshua—both to the Jews first, and also to all the world!

For the sake of the Messiah,

Kevin Geoffrey, President, MJMI