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# Morgan County Today

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### Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

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WEEKLY WEATHER



**CITIZENS  
GAS  
UTILITY DISTRICT**  
MORGAN of Scott and Morgan Counties

TUE 3/10  **74°** 62°

WED 3/11  **77°** 41°

THU 3/12  **53°** 34°

FRI 3/13  **62°** 41°

SAT 3/14  **71°** 46°

SUN 3/15  **76°** 43°

MON 3/16  **53°** 27°



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**Ms. Avery Pearl**  
Pet Columnist

# Pet Perspective

## Time Change, Again

Just when a girl gets used to the time, it changes again!

I sure do wish that these people would make up their minds! Is 2:00 really 2:00 or is it 1:00 converted from 2:00? I am so confused!

This switch messes with my internal clock and I don't know whether to sit at the door to wait on Pap when my internal clock says it is time or, go an hour before it tells me to!

Do these people not know that they also took an hour of sleep time away? I mean a girl needs her beauty rest.

Any-woof, I sure hope everyone enjoys having more light time in the evening, at least that's what I think they do the time change thingy for. That's the only thing that makes any dog-sense, that I can think of.

For more of my Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**Annual Alumni Banquet**  
— Sunbright High School —  
Saturday, May 23rd • 6:00 PM  
Sunbright School Cafeteria  
205 Burrville Rd  
Sunbright, TN 37872

**\$20 Per Person**  
Class of 2026 Graduates  
— FREE

Celebrate • Reconnect  
Honor Our Tigers



— In Loving Memory —

**James Robert Bauer, 79  
United States Army Veteran**



James Robert Bauer, age 79, gained his wings February 19, 2026 at Methodist Medical Center with his family by his side. James was born October 2, 1947 in Erie Pennsylvania to the late Walter and Margaret (Pistner) Bauer of Erie, PA. James proudly served his country in the US Army. He was a hard working man with a great work ethic and a long work history at Bell South and had a huge passion for hunting and woodworking.

He was preceded in death by his loving parents, Walter and

Margaret (Pistner) Bauer; and in-laws, Aramadao and Elizabeth Argentina.

James is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Jean Bauer "His Honey"; children: Scott (Erica) Bauer of AZ, Mark Murray of GA, Sheri Harris of Munford, AL, and Stephen (Misty) Bauer of TN; sisters, Ann Glasspell of PA and Linda Bauman of PA; 7 grandchildren and his longtime friend and chosen brother, Bill Podewils of Sunbright, TN.

A memorial service will be held in James's honor on March 1, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at American Legion Post 149, 202 S Kingston St. Wartburg, TN, 37887.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of James Robert Bauer.*

**William "Bill" Phillips, 55**



William "Bill" Phillips, age 55 of Deer Lodge passed away Friday, February 20, 2026 at Parkwest Medical Center in Knoxville.

He is preceded in death by his father Robert Alton Phillips; special friend Steve Gunter.

He is survived by his parents Peggy and Butch Aytes; children Kailyn (Logan) Simmons, Kelsey Phillips and fiancé Adam Pass; step sons Dylan Hughett, Shade Underwood; fiancé Amie Underwood; grandchildren Sophia, Liam, Oaklynn, Hunter; brother Barry (Diana)

Phillips; step brothers Steven Aytes (Holly), Ken Aytes; step sister Crystale Aytes; special friend Donna Gunter and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, and uncles.

The family will receive friends Sunday, February 22, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 1:00-3:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 3:00 p.m. with Bro. Robert Freels and Bro. Tyler Trout officiating. Graveside services will be Monday at 11:00 a.m. in the Frankfort Cemetery in Lancing.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of William "Bill" Phillips.*

**Phillip Ray Detrick, 64**



Mr. Phillip Ray Detrick, age 64, of Sunbright passed away Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at his home in Sunbright.

He is preceded in death by his father, Larry Stolzenburg Sr.,

his mother, Betty McDaniel, his brother, Larry (Duck) Detrick, his nephew Jason Detrick, and his brother-in-law Cody Marmon.

He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Detrick; children Jay (Kaleigh Brock) Hawn, Cameron (Mickie) Robbins, and Phillip Detrick Jr.; his special granddaughter Jayde Robbins, and eagerly anticipated grandson Kolton Hawn. Also surviving are his step-father Paul Ed McDaniel, his step-mother Roberta Stolzenburg, his sister Pat (Keith) Wilcox, his loving family of in-laws; Robin and Linda Marmon, Greg and Robyn Bunch, Sean and Tori Marmon,

and a host of nieces and nephews and close friends that will greatly miss him!

Extra thanks to special family friend Marcie Brookman for all the help she gave to make Phil's final days comfortable. The family cannot begin to name all of Phil's friends that have been there for him at the end, but we would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Phil was an avid sportsman! He loved to collect guns and knives, go fishing, and hunt when he was able. He had a gruff exterior but was a very loving family

man who never took those that cared for him for granted. He was quick to joke with anyone that would stop to talk.

The family will receive friends Friday, February 27, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Military Honors.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mr. Phillip Ray Detrick.*



— In Loving Memory —

### Phyllis Seiber, 79



Phyllis Seiber, age 79, passed away on February 23, 2026 surrounded by her family.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Noble and Aliene Stringer; brother, Paul Stringer and sister, Sandra Faye Ledford.

She is survived by her daughter, Lisa (Jimmy) West of Mossy Grove; Son, Doyle (Vicky) Seiber of Clinton.

Devoted partner of 25 years, CL Patterson.

Grandkids, Ryan (Brooke) Jackson of Oliver Springs; Taylen Jackson of Mossy Grove;

Alison (Cameron) Seiber of Oak Ridge.

Great-Grandchildren, Lily, Savannah, Tommy "Boy", Bailey and Beckham.

As well as a host of special cousins, nieces and nephews.

Phyllis was a member of Petros Baptist Church.

She worked at Red Kap for several years then on to Methodist Medical Center.

Phyllis loved The Lord, her family, to travel, laugh, and have a good time.

She never met a stranger. If you were friends with Phyllis, you had a true friend. She will be so missed by all that knew and loved her.

The family will receive friends Thursday, February 26, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. David Seiber officiating. Grave-side services will be Friday at 11:00 a.m. in the New Petros Cemetery in Petros.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Phyllis Seiber.



### Psalm 86:4-5

**4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.**

**5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.**

**Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.**

### Stella Bunch Kelly, 100



Stella Bunch Kelly age 100 passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 28, 2026.

Stella grew up in Coalfield and was a true Coalminer's daughter. She was born on January 15, 1926 to the late Walter and Lillie Bunch. She served her country

during WWII as a Calutron Girl at the Y-12 plant. Her husband, 2 brothers and 4 brothers-in-laws all served overseas during WWII. She was a very dedicated Christian always working in her Church and teaching many Sunday School Classes. She took pride in her ability to raise her 3 children by working off the land to provide for them. Between milking a cow and making butter and cheese, to raising a garden and canning vegetables, fruit and meat, she provided most of the food for her family.

As her children grew, she started working. She worked many years as a Head Start teacher and was very proud and hon-

ored to volunteer at the Methodist Medical Center's Coronary Rehabilitation Facility.

She was preceded in death by her parents Walter and Lillie Bunch; husband Clyde; special son-in-law Mark Shelton; sisters Aletha Bunch Spainhour and Florence Bunch Worthington; and brothers, Harvey, Isaac, Paul and James Bunch. She is survived by brother Earl Bunch; daughter Brenda Shelton; sons C.A. (Marcia) and Gary (Kathy); grandsons Stephen, Darren (Jess), Joe (Amanda), Patrick (Heather), and John (Jessi); 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

The family will receive friends Monday, March 2, 2026, from 12:00 until 2:00 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg.

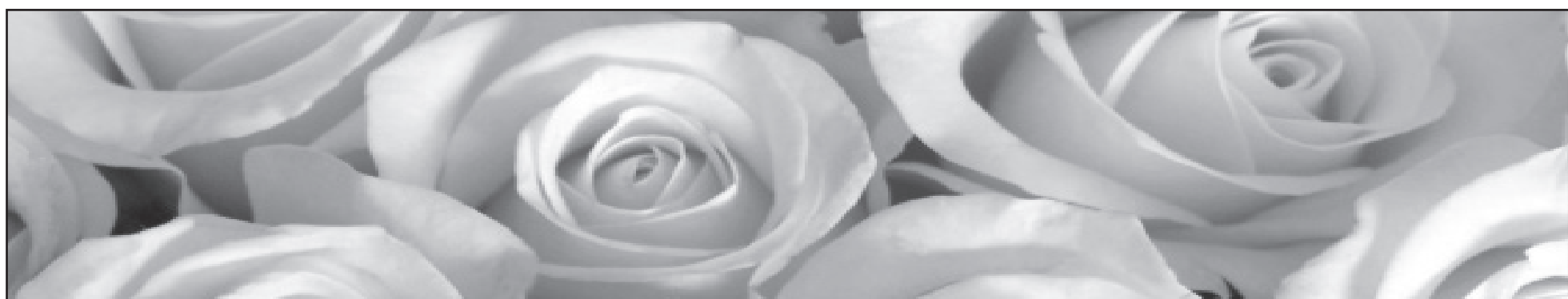
Funeral services will follow at 2:00 pm with Ronny Jones officiating.

Internment will follow in the Union Cemetery, Wartburg, TN.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to:

St. Jude Children's Hospital.  
501 St. Jude Place  
Memphis, TN 38105

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Stella Bunch Kelly.*



# Historically Speaking Lunch For Literacy – 2026 featuring New York Times Bestselling author, Kristy Woodson Harvey

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

One of our most popular annual events is the Lunch for Literacy program held for the past 34 years. Plan to be at the Oak Ridge High School on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 11:30 AM to enjoy a great lunch by Fire & Salt and meet New York Times Bestselling author Kristy Woodson Harvey. She comes recommended to us by our City Manager, Randy Hemann.

Randy knows Kristy’s father, Paul Woodson, who has a business in Salisbury, NC. Randy said, “I have known Paul and her mother, Beth, since 1997.” So, Kristy agreed to come to Oak Ridge because of this family connection. Randy will introduce Kristy at the luncheon.

As I am the City Historian, I cannot miss this opportunity to say a word of appreciation for our City Manager and his love for history. I asked Randy to tell me something about his interest in history.

He said, “I mentioned one day to Michael Stallo that my Aunt Henrietta Hemann Holbrook lived in this area (I only knew of their time in Clinton), and Michael did some research and found out she was here in the 1940’s and lived with her Husband Fella Holbrook (Corps of Engineers), on Tennessee Avenue. Michael even pulled up her Library card. I do not have it here in the office, but her card number was around #3600. They were married at the Chapel on the Hill, and their son Richard Hobbrook, my brother Rick’s namesake, was a graduate of ORHS. My Aunt Henrietta sent me “Little Golden Books” every year for my birthday when I was growing up. She always wrote a message in them. Making this family connection has been very meaningful to me.

“I am a little bit of a history nerd, always traveling and looking at history. I lived in Salisbury, NC 16 years, a city with over 1,400 properties in National Register Districts. Tennes-

sean Andrew Jackson studied law in Salisbury (1784/85) under Spruce Macay (Mecham makes a very brief mention of Salisbury in his book). Macay’s office was taken apart and put on a railroad car to be shipped to the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876 and was never seen again.

“I enjoyed finally getting to the Hermitage. Also, when Daniel Boone went west to “discover” Tennessee, he was outfitted in the Nesbit store in Salisbury (where he left an unpaid bill, I might add). Salisbury was the western outpost in those days, and all of what was to become Tennessee was part of Rowan County, of which Salisbury is the County seat.

“In my downtown development years in Salisbury, I had a revolving fund and was part of a number of renovations. I drug my son through so many historic buildings that one year, when he was young, and we asked him what he wanted for Christmas, he said, ‘an old building.’”

How about that? I am proud to have a City Manager who is a self-described “history nerd!”

Kristy Woodson Harvey, New York Times best-selling author of 14 novels and co-host of the hit weekly web show and podcast Friends and Fiction, is our speaker at the annual luncheon. Harvey’s works have received numerous honors, including Good Morning America’s Buzz Pick, Southern Living’s Most Anticipated Reads, and Katie Couric’s Featured Books. Her writing has appeared in several publications, including Southern Living, Parade, Traditional Home, and USA Today.

TNBankl is our 2026 presenting sponsor and will present a scholarship to an Oak Ridge High School Student again this year. Tickets are available for \$60 at TNBank, 401 S. Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN. Book clubs or other groups desiring seating reservations should contact wes-sel.sandranm@gmail.com.

In addition to an expected upbeat presentation by Kristy Woodson Harvey, there will be an opportunity to buy her signed books as well as to pre-order her latest novel, Summer State of Mind, which is scheduled to be released in May 2026.

Altrusa International of Oak Ridge and Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club proudly present the Annual Lunch for Literacy Luncheon. Over

the years, we have had a wide variety of speakers, some local and some even internationally significant. For example, Denise Kiernan’s The Girls of Atomic City has been printed in multiple foreign languages, including Polish, Italian, Hungarian, Portuguese, and Chinese.

Anna Robinson said, “I have attended the Lunch 4 Literacy for as long as I can remember. It’s a wonderful experience to hear authors speak about their work. I have been the coordinator and discussion leader for a book group for almost 30 years. Many of my participants attend the Literary Luncheon. The cost of the event supports literacy, and as far as I am concerned, reading is so important in the life of an individual. If someone can read, they are well ahead of the game! L4L is an important way to promote reading. The guest authors are always interesting and engaging. I am happy to support this event.”

Sue Byrne, Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club leader representative, said, “There is an emerging emphasis on reading skills for all ages. This year, new literacy issues include challenges more than reading. Traditional reading is now intertwined with information and media literacy. The ability to evaluate sources, to discern facts from opinion, and to act as a responsible digital citizen is a fundamental need for all ages. We are seeing a significant shift. Literacy includes understanding how to evaluate source data, and to responsibly use artificial intelligence.”

But the main reason for Lunch for Literacy is to raise money for grants to fund projects that help improve literacy for all ages. Currently, there were grants of \$32,411.41 in 2025 and \$23,900.34 in 2026 so far. These grants cover a wide range of literacy initiatives. The budget for 2026 grants is \$45,000. Efforts are underway currently to solicit additional non-competitive proposals in the areas of Artificial Intelligence and informational literacy to benefit our community.

Donations are welcome at the luncheon or anytime, and checks should be made payable to the ALTRUSA Foundation of Oak Ridge with ‘Lunch for Literacy’ on the Memo line and given to any of the Lunch for Literacy hosts or mailed to P.O. Box 4164, Oak Ridge, TN 37831.

Make plans now to attend and support this initiative to improve literacy in our communities.

2025 Lunch for Literacy Grant Applications	
Applicant Institution	
Friends of Literacy	OR Preschool Ready, Set, Read
ADFAC	2025 School Supplies Program
Jefferson Middle School	DIY French Storybooks
Grand Oaks Elementary	Attracted to Literacy
Boys & Girls Clubs of TN Valley	Rookie Readers - Anderson County
Willow Brook Elementary	Books of Brilliance
Boys and Girls Club of Oak Ridge	Making Literacy Comfortable
Clinton Middle School	Reading Exploration
Willow Brook Elementary	Code & Create
Willow Brook Elementary	Hand2Mind
Emory Valley Center	Creative Curriculum
Girls Inc.	Summer Literacy Camp
Glenwood Elementary	One Book, One Summer
Glenwood Elementary	Book Vending Restock
Children's Museum	Charlie's Story Sprouts
Ridge View Elementary	Readers are Leaders
Roane Imagination Library	Books for 0-5
Robertsville Middle School	C-Pen Readers
The Arc Anderson County	Enabling Technology

Lunch for Literacy grants for 2025

2026 Lunch for Literacy Grant Applications	
Applicant Institution	
Grand Oaks Elementary	Library Collection Enhancement
ADFAC	School Supplies Program
Boys and Girls Clubs of TN Valley	Rookie Readers
Willow Brook Elementary	Willow Brook Author Visit
Together Podemus	Language Proficiency
Glenwood Elementary	Book Vending Machine Restock
Glenwood Elementary	Summer Reading Access
Girls Inc of TN Valley	Read, Play, Grow Program
Friends of Literacy	Literacy To Go
Fairview Elementary	Display Shelving
Emory Valley Center	Early Literacy and Language Skills

Lunch for Literacy grants for 2026 thus far

# Romans 9



**Melvin Howard**

(Romans Chapter 9) Paul's Broken Heart: There may not be a more tender passage in Paul's writings than the one that begins this chapter. He bears his soul's deep pain for his kinsmen in the flesh, national Israel. What a rich heritage these people have shared! They were adopted by God and privy to his glory. They were participants of various covenants throughout the centuries of the nation's existence---especially the Mosaic law. They enjoyed the privileges of a special service to

the Lord (the tabernacle and temple) and were recipients of numerous promises. They were the physical channel through whom descended the Messiah (Jn. 4:22), who is "God blessed forever" (v. 5)---an affirmation of Christ's deity. So passionate was he for this body of people that he had been on the precipice of wishing he might be "lost" for them (strong hyperbole), were such possible. In view of this exclamation, no fair-minded person can accuse Paul of anti-Semitism. Nonetheless, there is bitter disappointment over the prevailing attitude the Jews have entertained regarding Jesus.

(Romans 9:6-13) God's Sovereignty: However, the history of the nation has not been in vain. A true "Israel" had come out of physical Israel, and so the word of God had not been for naught. Just as not all who came from the loins of Abraham were a part of the promised line (the Ishmaelites), not all the promised line became genuine "children of the promise" in faith. Paul will argue for the sovereignty of God, who, because of his omniscience, always makes appropriate choices (Gen. 18:25), though such may not agree with man's limited perceptions. For example, he chose Isaac over Ishmael, Jacob over Esau, etc. From the very beginning, God had in mind a "seed" that was spiritual in nature, not merely that of flesh. The terms "loved" and "hated" (v. 13) are not to be pressed literally; these are Hebrew idioms indicating greater versus lesser, expressing literally; these are Hebrew idioms indicating greater versus lesser, expressing the divine choice of one people over another in terms of redemptive genealogy.

(Romans 9:14-18) God's Justice: When Jehovah makes choices, consistent with his own foreknowledge and will, is he unfair? Absolutely not! He judges spiritually, not superficially. God once said to Moses, "I will have mercy upon whom I will have mercy" (Ex. 33:9). The Lord's decisions derive from his own wisdom. And they need not conform to the attitudes and actions of men (v. 16). Pharaoh is mentioned as an example of divine sovereignty. Jehovah used Pharaoh to illustrate divine power. The Egyptians ruler was not "raised up" to be bad, he was raised to power because of what he already was---a self-centered, evil person. God would use him as a tool in the sacred scheme of things to exhibit his own control. And today, thirty-five hundred years removed from those events, we are still talking about Pharaoh and the Israelites! When it is suggested that God "hardened" Pharaoh, Paul utilizes a common Hebrew idiom by which the Lord is said to actively do what he merely permits to happen in that capacity (1 Thes. 2:11-12). A number of times in Exodus Pharaoh is said to have hardened his own heart (7:14; 8:15; 9:34).

(Romans 9:19-29) divine justice vindicated: Paul, in his characteristic fashion, raises objections from critics. "If God hardens someone, how could he fault them for being hard? If a man cannot withstand his will, why is he condemned for withstanding?" (v. 19). Here is a question that solicits a response: "Who do you think you are to debate with God?" The one who was formed is not greater than the one who did the forming. Does the creature have the wisdom to question the Creator? No, that would be like a piece of pottery criticizing the potter---an absurd position. The potter has a "right" (sovereignty, authority) over his creations, and may use them consistent with his own purpose (v.20). This statement may not be forced to imply any position that is contrary to the overall nature of the Lord. It certainly does not suggest that God made some people to be lost and others to be saved---a proposition wholly foreign to the entire tenor of Scripture. Nonetheless, it is argued by radical Calvinists.

God's sovereign power has been demonstrated over the course of history. The Lord had the right to deal with the nation of Israel as he saw fit. For centuries he had been extremely long-suffering with the nation; he "endured" much from these "vessels of wrath" (deserving of wrath) who were "fitted" for destruction (v. 22). (Many scholars take the verb "fitted" to be used in a reflexive sense---they "fitted themselves" for destruction.) Eventually (the Roman invasion of A.D. 70) they would receive that for which they prepared themselves. In the meantime, it

was the Lord's will to likewise make known "the riches of his glory" to "vessels of mercy." These vessels of mercy were those who would be recipients of divine mercy in the forgiveness of their sins when the new Israel was established. Acts 2:37-47 "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." In this regime, both Jews and Gentiles would be welcome, for preparation (v. 23) on behalf of both had been in progress for centuries.

The apostle cites passages from the Old Testament to make several points pertaining to the proposition just argued. (a) Citations are introduced from Hosea that clearly reflect the Lord's interest in the Gentiles. (b) Isaiah spoke of the nation of Israel as being like the "sand of the sea," yet only a "remnant" would be saved. God knew from the very beginning of the nation's inclination toward stubbornness and disbelief. There is no hint here of a national conversion of the nation of Israel, as some millennialists affirm. (c) The nation of Israel passed through many crises over the course of history, with thousands being destroyed. The Lord preserved a "seed" from the nation, however, so that the sacred plan of salvation might be realized as prophesied.

(Romans 9:30-33) the receptiveness of the Gentiles: What is our conclusion? (a) The Gentiles, who generally did not pursue righteousness, were inclined to accept the gospel, hence attained righteousness as a result of their obedient faith. (Romans 6:3-6 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.") (b) In contrast, Israel, who possessed a law that was intended to lead them to righteousness, did not understand or follow the thrust of that law, as it pointed to Christ as Savior. What was their problem? They were so riveted to the notion that they could justify themselves---either on the basis of their ancestry or their feigned rigorous obedience to the law---that the majority never submitted to God's plan for being credited with righteousness. (Romans 10:16 "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?") (Romans 10:21 "But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.")

Instead of looking to the "rock" of their "refuge" for stability (Isa. 28:15-16), they "stumbled" over him because of their unrealistic, nationalistic expectations. They supposed he would fulfill their patriotic ambitions (Jn. 6:15; 1 Cor. 1:23). In spite of the stumbling of many, those who exercised the "obedience of faith" (1:5; 16:26) would not be "put to shame." The door was open to "whosoever will."

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo  
FortifyYourFaith.org

Melvin Howard's Weekly column is sponsored by  
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