

only helps him. What follows from the fact that God has so securely established our salvation through all its stages?" Thus in this instance also, Paul is presenting an objection which might be raised. In view of Rom.8:28, which just precedes, will someone be tempted to think that the Christian has no opposition? Indeed that is true. (Here instead of repelling the objection, Paul accepts the statement, and proceeds to explain why) Granted that "For thy sake we are killed all the day long; We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter", yet "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." (v.36-7)

Rom.9:14-5. "What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses...."

Rom.9:30-32. "What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, who followed not after righteousness, attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith: but Israel, following after a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith...."

This verse which we are now concerned with, falls right in line with the other cases where Paul uses this phrase. In this case instead of repelling the objection, he accepts the statement and proceeds to show why it is true. He follows the well known method of argument, to answer one question by asking another. This is a new objection, to put parallel with that of v.14 as the beginning of an entirely new section of the discussion. To this point in our passage, Paul has been discussing the right of God to elect whom He pleases-- has been considering the rejection of Israel from the divine side. Now he introduces an objection from the human side. He considers what it is, in the conduct of Israel, humanly considered, which has led to her downfall. We might paraphrase the objection thus: "What!. Your argument amounts to this-- that the Gentiles, who did not seek righteousness, have attained to righteousness,-- the righteousness, as you say, of faith; but Israel, who we all know was very definitely trying to follow a law of righteousness, has failed to attain to that law". Paul--"Granted. That is exactly what has happened. But why has Israel not attained to the right