

**Romans Chapter 10**  
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## **Romans Chapter 10**

The best way to begin chapter 10 is with a restatement on verses 30-33 of chapter 9, since verses 1-4 of chapter 10 are a continuation of the end statement of chapter 9.

**<sup>30</sup>What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; <sup>31</sup>but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. <sup>32</sup>Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, <sup>33</sup>just as it is written,**

**"BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE,  
AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."**

**<sup>1</sup>Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. <sup>2</sup>For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. <sup>3</sup>For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. <sup>4</sup>For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.**

Paul tells us that the Gentiles were able to accomplish (righteousness before God) what the Jews failed in their attempts to achieve, because the gentiles approached through the new covenant (faith in Jesus). The Jews believed that they could achieve righteousness through works and in seeking this path, they stumbled and failed.

In seeing this, Paul states that it is his desire and prayer that the Jews reach salvation. He understands that they have a "zeal for God", but not in accordance with knowledge. They failed because they did not understand (have knowledge of) God's righteousness (Christ Jesus) and sought to establish their own form of righteousness (works and compliance to the Law). In doing this, they never understood that Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

It is interesting that Paul indicates Zeal is not enough to attain righteousness before God. That statement speaks volumes to many religious beliefs and the practice of religious people. Zeal is not enough if you approach God in the wrong way. As he stated many times Christ is the way and the truth and the light. No one comes to the Father except through him.

In order to find God we must each come face to face with the Lordship and the sovereign claims of Jesus Christ in our lives and the transforming, saving grace that only He provides. It seems reasonable that some may ask "How do I do this? What do I need to do in order to find this new power and this transformation, this saving grace?" Paul answers that question by outlining for us the simplicity of faith.

**<sup>5</sup>For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness. <sup>6</sup>But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?' (that is, to bring Christ down), <sup>7</sup>or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)."**

What must we do to win God's Favor?

- Must we go to heaven and bring Christ back with us?
- Must we go to the abyss and bring Christ back from the dead?

Who can do these things? They certainly will not be accomplished by anyone (sinner) seeking to find righteousness before God. To ask us to do such things places righteousness out of everyone's grasp. Why would a loving God ask us to do what no one can do? It would be easier for him to simply say, "No one can become righteous."

The simple fact is that all that needed to be done has been done already. All that is left is simple faith – demonstrated through our decision to call on Christ Jesus through simple faith. With our mouth, we confess Him as Lord, and belief that God raised him from the dead – that thing we certainly cannot accomplish on our own – God did. Then we will be saved. With our heart we believe, resulting in righteousness. With our mouth we confess, resulting in salvation.

### **Paul's great words concerning Faith, Belief, Confession, Righteousness and Salvation:**

**<sup>8</sup>But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"--that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, <sup>9</sup>that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; <sup>10</sup>for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. <sup>11</sup>For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; <sup>13</sup>for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."**

It is said that Martin Luther came to the realization of God's will for us when he read the simplicity of Paul's words from Romans concerning our walk with God.

#### **"the just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17b)**

In Paul's mind, it was that simple. We begin our relationship with God through Christ on the basis of faith (We confess with the mouth, resulting in salvation). We follow Christ on the basis of simple faith that he will accomplish the things he has promised he can and will do for us. Our faith is then rewarded as we allow Jesus (through the Holy Spirit) to change us into the children God wants us to be. There is no distinction in us (Greek) and the Jew:

**for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;**

The promise of Christ remains the same, regardless of the direction from which we approach Him:

**<sup>13</sup>for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."**

Christ is available to all who believe and call on him. All that is left is to proclaim this fact to the lost and so Paul addresses this next –

## **Faith comes through Hearing and Hearing by the word of Christ**

**<sup>14</sup>How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?**

All of Paul's life – post Damascus Road experience - has been devoted to providing the word for our hearing, so that we might believe. He is the word given to the early church, proclaiming the Lord, so that others might hear and believe.

**<sup>15</sup>How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written,**

**"HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"**

All of his post Damascus road experience life has been devoted to the call to be sent to proclaim the word to those who would listen. All of his life has been devoted to walking from place to place proclaiming God's word, pointed directly at Jesus Christ.

God still asks the same question to us today. "Who will go and make the word available? Who can I send to preach the word (where you live, where you work, to whatever mission field you may find), because faith comes through hearing and hearing by the word of Christ. Who will go for me (God's desired way for spreading the gospel)? Even though not all receive the word (like Israel), God still wants it shared for those who will hear it.

### **A side message:**

There are five steps involved in the calling on the name of the Lord. Paul lists them in reverse order in Romans 10:14-15

**<sup>14</sup>How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup>How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written,**

**"HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"**

5 - The final step – The Call – we call on Him – we acknowledge the Lord and ask for his lordship in our lives

4 – We believe – in the Lord to be able to save us – this belief is Faith in thought

3 – We hear the call of the Lord (his word in our heart) – Through Hearing comes belief and salvation.

2 – Someone preaches to them. We are all called to preach our witness. Scripture tells us to be prepared at all times “In season and out of season”.

1 – How can they preach unless they are sent? God sends someone to preach the word – maybe through a sermon, or through a witness or an action. God is constantly asking us, “Who will go for me?”

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**<sup>16</sup>However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" <sup>17</sup>So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. <sup>18</sup>But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have;**

**"THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH,  
AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD."**

**<sup>19</sup>But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says,**

**"I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION,  
BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU."**

**<sup>20</sup>And Isaiah is very bold and says,**

**"I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME,  
I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME."**

**<sup>21</sup>But as for Israel He says, "ALL THE DAY LONG I HAVE STRETCHED OUT MY HANDS TO A  
DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE."**

Paul states that Israel had no ground of complaint for not having heard what God had to say: They had heard, not only through men sent of God, but through the silent witness of nature and of their own hearts. No man lives untouched by God and unaware of his existence. Across the world, men wait to hear, and are convinced by the silent witness of their own hearts that they need something.

The philosopher Pascal wrote that within the heart of every man exists a “Christ shaped void”, that only Christ can fill.

The full power of the Christian gospel is only known by the process that we call "incarnation." That is, it is better *caught* than *taught* -- it *isn't the preaching of the words so much as it is the witness of the life*. When *the Spirit of Christ dwells in a human heart*, that man or woman becomes a witness, sent by God, to be an influence wherever they may be.

God could spread his word in whatever way he might desire. Angels could sing it from heaven. He could blaze it across the sky in script that all could read. He could and has chosen for his Holy Word to be preached. Who will go for him? The word was given for mankind and is intended to be shared/preached by those who answer God's call to preach.