

Message #36

Romans 10:1-13

If there is one subject you do not want to be confused about, it is the subject of your salvation. It is estimated that today there are 4,000 religions in the world and each of those religions have their theories and opinions about God and salvation.

These religions compile their lists of things you should do and should not do and claim if you follow the list, you'll make it to heaven.

Almost all religions have devised their works system that they claim will lead you to salvation. There is a religious smorgasbord out there and you can choose whatever you want. You can church shop and church hop until you find something that tells you what you like.

The problem is, God's salvation is not based on what we do or like. It is based on His sovereign plan. When it comes to your salvation, God moved Paul to clearly express the truth of grace:

THE ONLY WAY TO BE SAVED IS TO CALL OUT TO JESUS CHRIST BY FAITH AND ASK HIM TO SAVE YOU.

You may do all kinds of religious stuff, but unless you personally by faith call out to Jesus Christ and ask Him to save you, you will not be saved.

What is most interesting about this is the first word in **verse 1** of the English and Greek text "brethren."

Paul is writing this to believers. You would think believers would know this; but apparently they don't. They apparently need to grasp this point.

Paul has just developed the importance of Israel in the program of God but he realized they were not saved. In fact, in **Romans 10:1, he prays for their salvation. Obviously no matter how religious these people were, they were not saved and Paul prayed they would be saved.**

We have a prayer meeting here every Wednesday night and always on our prayer sheet is prayer for Israel and one of the items that we have prayed about for years and years and years is that people from Israel would be saved. Why? Because they are not saved.

God is the one who saves people and prayer which calls on Him for salvation is part of His process to save people. So when you pray for your children or grandchildren or brothers or sisters or relatives or friends, pray to God for them that they will call upon Him for their salvation. That is what Paul prayed.

Now there are three very important salvation topics Paul addresses:

SALVATION TOPIC #1 – Salvation is not by religious zeal. 10:2-3

People in religion are zealous about their religion. People in a denomination are zealous about their denomination. **Most people have a zeal about their religious passions but what most people don't have is true knowledge.**

In fact, that word “zeal” specifically speaks of an intense burning for something. Mormons actually use the term “burning in the bosom” to describe their passion for religion.

But carefully notice what Paul says about religious zeal; it is not “in accordance with knowledge.”

Their religious zeal is not according to true knowledge of real salvation. In fact, the word “knowledge” (epiginwskw) means real depth level of knowledge and truth about salvation. Their zeal is surface level and based on shallow emotionalism; it is not based on sound truth.

If ever there was a man who knew about this kind of religious zeal, it was Paul. He actually described his zeal in Philippians 3:6-7 “as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the law, found blameless, but whatever things were gain to me those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Jesus Christ.” Paul said my zeal was religious rubbish. It could not and did not save me.

Now in **verse 3**, Paul explains what the religious zeal did. The religious zeal did not know about the righteousness of God being a gift and people thought they could be righteous like God to the point God would give them everlasting life.

What most people don't realize is that the righteousness to go to heaven is a gift from God and not an earned paycheck.

In their zeal they sought every way possible to establish their own righteousness, but they, themselves, would not submit to the righteousness of God found in Jesus Christ.

These people were totally ignorant of the real righteousness of God that is only found in Jesus Christ and in their religious zeal came up with all kinds of works they really thought would achieve it.

Learn a lesson here. Religious zeal is not the same as actually being saved and on your way to everlasting life. One may have a great zeal to get involved in causes and crusades and make sacrifices for those causes and in the end burn in everlasting fire.

Often times, people with great zeal impress other people but frankly they don't impress God. Zeal is a good thing when it is based on true knowledge and true knowledge is deep knowledge, not shallow knowledge.

What we clearly see here is one cannot be saved without right information and knowledge.

SALVATION TOPIC #2 – Salvation is not by the O.T. law. **10:4-5**

Verse 4 is as clear as it can be; Jesus Christ is the end or completion (telos) of the Law. Many religions and denominations have missed this critical point and they try to keep people under the O.T. law. In many ways, Reformed theology has robbed people of the truth and the freedom they have in Jesus Christ. Salvation is not by the O.T. law. There are actually three ways this is true:

Way #1 - Jesus Christ was the Person to whom the Law pointed. **Gal. 3:24**

The law was our tutor or schoolmaster to lead us to Jesus Christ. It was designed to point to Him as the only Person who could fulfill it.

Way #2 - Jesus Christ was the complete fulfillment of the Law. **Matt. 5:17**

Jesus Himself said He did not come to abolish it but fulfill it.

Way #3 - Jesus Christ is the termination of the law. **Col. 2:14; Rom. 7:6; Gal. 3:19-26; John 1:17**

Jesus Christ abolished the law in His own flesh (Eph. 2:15). Jesus Christ put an end to the law in people having a relationship with God.

In Romans 10:5, Paul quotes a text Moses wrote in Leviticus 18:5. In that text, God says that in order for a person to live, he must keep all the law, His statutes and judgments. That law curses us because no one kept it all and Jesus Christ redeems us from the law (Gal. 3:13).

When Jesus was here on earth, He said that one would have to be as perfect as His father in heaven (Matt. 5:48). Our problem is no human has ever been close to being that perfect. According to James 2:10, if a person just missed one commandment, one time, one is guilty of not measuring up to the righteousness of God found in the law.

One would have to be an ignorant and arrogant buffoon to think they are as righteous as God. That law points that out and Jesus Christ puts an end to the law. He is the way to salvation and not the law.

One time I was in a very intense discussion with a man who claimed his mother was the most saintly woman who ever lived who would go to heaven: 1) She never smoked; 2) She never drank; 3) She never talked about people; 4) She never missed a church service; 5) She gave her money; 6) She helped the poor.

When he got done with his list, he said what do you say to that? I said is that the list? Is that the complete description of her religious experience? He said, “Yes” it was and it was accurate. I said well by our standards your mother was a good woman who is on her way to eternal condemnation.

That got his attention and he said, “How can you say that?” I said well let me ask you this, did she ever offer a blood sacrifice to God? He said, “No.” I said did she offer some type of atonement for her sins? He said, “No.” Then I said she is heading to condemnation because without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins no matter how good you think the person is.

SALVATION TOPIC #3 – Salvation is by saving faith. 10:6-13

There are four key saving faith facts that Paul presents here:

Saving Faith Fact #1 - Saving faith trusts Jesus Christ for righteousness and not one’s works for righteousness. 10:6-8

Paul is quoting freely from a text in Deuteronomy 30:10-14. In that context, Moses is giving a charge to the nation Israel and he is discussing about the fact that she is about to enter the Promised Land. The main issue he is addressing is the blessing of God and how to receive it.

Moses’ point is that Israel does not have to do anything difficult to inherit the land, such as ascend some mountain or descend into the deep. All she needed was to believe God. Those Jews would rather try to climb a mountain or go into the deep. Paul is using that to make a point about saving faith. **Saving faith is not some strenuous or spectacular work you do because nothing you do can compare to Jesus Christ.**

Scaling some mountain doesn’t earn the incarnation of Jesus Christ (10:6). Descending into the deep does not earn the resurrection of Jesus Christ (10:7). **In other words, your works, no matter how strenuous they may be, have no connection with the righteousness of God found in Jesus Christ.**

Paul says in **verse 8** that the righteousness of God comes by faith and the thing that produces this faith is preaching the word of God.

Saving Faith Fact #2 - Saving faith confesses that Jesus Christ is God. 10:9a

The word “confess” means to acknowledge or agree to something. The point of this is in order to be saved one must acknowledge before God and confess to God that Jesus Christ is God.

Some translators supply the verbal “is,” Jesus is Lord. Other translators supply the adverb “as,” Jesus as Lord. But in the original text, neither word is there and grammatically the proper noun “Jesus” is appositional to the proper noun “Lord.” **In other words, Jesus equals Lord.**

Now the word Lord is the word that refers to the fact that He is the sovereign master and God over everything. The point of this is that one must acknowledge that Jesus Christ is God to be saved. No one will confess this about Jesus Christ unless he believes it in his heart.

The thing that makes Christ's shed blood so potent that it can save sinners is that it is the blood of God. One who is truly saved will confess this about Jesus Christ.

1. Mormonism denies that Jesus Christ is the God of the Bible. He was god like we may be.
2. Jehovah's Witness says Jesus was the Son of God, but He was not God Himself.
3. Christian Science says Jesus was not God.
4. Judaism says Jesus Christ was not God.
5. Muslims say Jesus was a prophet lesser than Muhammad.

None of these religions are leading people to salvation because they refuse to confess who He is.

Saving Faith Fact #3 - Saving faith believes that Christ's resurrection is salvific work of God.
10:9b

Saving faith believes that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the evidence of our justification and the proof that He is the only one who can give us life. The resurrection of Jesus Christ proves He is God and He is the only Savior who can give us the righteousness of God in justification.

Those who are saved realize that the resurrection, as C. I. Scofield said, "is proof our sins are gone."

Saving Faith Fact #4 - Saving Faith confesses this belief to God. **10:10-13**

The connection between true Biblical salvation and the heart and mouth is this: when what we say to God with our mouths lines up with what we believe in our heart concerning God's righteousness, we are saved.

If you are truly saved or if you truly want to be saved, you will not be ashamed or afraid to bow your head before God and admit to God that you want and are believing in Jesus Christ to save you.

God, who knows and sees the heart, can quickly ascertain if it lines up with what one is saying with their mouths.

Now carefully notice to whom this confession of mouth and heart are made. It is not made to the church or a pastor or a board; it is made to God (10:12-13).

This is not public profession of faith; this is private admission that one is making to God that they believe in their heart that Jesus Christ can and will save them.

It does not matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile. It does not matter if you are religious or not religious. If you will call upon Jesus Christ to save you and believe in your heart that He is the only God/Savior who can save you, “you will be saved,” whoever you are.