

## **Bibles???**

### **Father's Day Prayer**

#### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Turn your bibles with me to Romans 10

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through the Book of Romans

This life changing letter that the Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote to the believers in Rome and to us today – about the Gospel of Grace

That salvation, that righteousness in God's eyes – is only made available by putting our faith and trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ upon the cross and His resurrection.

For those of us who have genuine faith in His work, we understand that there is nothing we can do to be more righteous or less righteous in the eyes of God – because He sees us clothed in Christ's righteousness.

That is the Gospel of grace –

The emphasis is not on "D-O"

The emphasis is in on what He has "D-O-N-E"

And so – in our text this morning, Paul is going to continue to show us the simplicity of the gospel and how the response of embracing the gospel is a genuine desire to share the gospel.

Let's pray...

### Read Text

In our study last week –

Paul, reminds us that Because God loves all (Jew / Gentile) with a perfect and complete love, He's made the offer of salvation simple.

We don't have to ascend into heaven, we don't have to ascend into hell to find it.

We don't have to go on a lifelong quest in search of it.

We don't have to be rocket scientists to figure it out.

We don't have to have physical strength to be able to attain it.

God has made it so simple that a child can understand.

God has made it so simple that the weak and sick can join Him in eternity.

**[Rom 10:8-9 NKJV] 8 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 preach): 9 that if you**

**confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**

The phrase – believe in your heart – it means to have a genuine heartfelt trust.

It is a trust in the truth of the Gospel of Grace

It is a trust in the Person of Jesus Christ

It is a trust in the work of Jesus Christ upon the cross

It is a trust that when Jesus cried out “it is finished” it is finished.

Believing in your heart is not

“I think so”

“I hope so”

Or simply believing it in our minds –

You see church,

There are examples that abound – of people who knew the bible and claimed to know Jesus and claimed to know the facts of Jesus and the life of Jesus and the death of Jesus.

But they never experienced a life changing personal experience of salvation that was rooted and grounded and deeply informed by an inward conviction of the truth of the gospel.

When we started our study in Romans – almost a year ago –

I brought up the example of John Wesley

He grew up in a Christian home

He heard the gospel – he believed the gospel in his mind (up here)

He came to the United States wanting to minister to the Native Americans

And in his words, there was a time in his walk where he said, “I preached the gospel, I preached the gospel – but I didn’t even know the Lord Jesus myself”

There are people that can make the claim that they know God – they can make the claim that they know Jesus, that they know the gospel – but have no trust in Him because they do not know Him.

For John Wesley, there came a point in his own life and under his own circumstances where he understood that he would have to make the commitment to place his undiluted trust in Jesus Christ.

And that was only going to be done by having a relationship with Him – knowing Him, surrendering to His will – trusting in the finished work upon the cross.

We can trust Jesus and be saved or we can trust in self and be lost.

We can choose to lean on Jesus and live an abundant life according to His will or we can choose to lean on other things – heritage, religion, self-righteousness, ignorance and live a fruitless life.

This is why Paul says – in verse 11

**[Rom 10:11-17 NKJV] 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."**

Turn with me to Isaiah 28

This is where Paul is quoting from –

**[Isa 28:16 NKJV] 16 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; **Whoever believes will not act hastily.**"**

The last part of the verse is what Paul quotes from.

Now, the reason that Paul quotes from Isaiah is because when one reads all of Isaiah 28

It is a prophetic word giving to the inhabitants of Judah –

That judgment was coming

That they are going to be taken captive to Babylon

And they are going to be imprisoned and enslaved

But within this pronouncement of judgment comes a promise –

Isaiah 28:16

That God was not done with them, that He is going to bring them back, that He has a plan for them, that the plans that God had for them remained unfulfilled and the promise is that God is going to fulfill them.

So when it says - **Whoever believes will not act hastily.**

Isaiah is saying –

If you hear the promise of God, if you believe the promise of God, you won't be disappointed.

We may put our trust in other people or other things and be put to shame.

Parents, husband, wife, government, religion, our own self righteousness

The shame will well up inside of us because we trusted them.

Paul invites us to trust the Lord and he says that we won't be ashamed.

Think of how this verse is connected to verse 10

**[Rom 10:10 NKJV] 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

For some – public confession of their faith – led to shame.

This was the case during Paul's time in the same way it is today.

Remember, the Book of Hebrew – its about a group of Jewish believers who wanted to return to Judaism – and one of the reasons they wanted to return was because they were ostracized from their loved one – their confession led to shame.

Their friendships and their relationships were changed.

You are a Christian – you are no longer a member of this family.

You are a Christian – we no longer will do business with you.

Jesus spoke about this very thing –

**[Mar 8:38 NKJV] 38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."**

You see church,

Paul knew that public confession on earth would result in public confession in heaven.

Even going back to the beginning of this letter – Paul had already told us - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.

Confession of or faith may lead to shame before man – but it will not lead to shame before God.

Because for the believer, instead of shame, we will experience His grace, His mercy and His love – forever.

And that is Paul's point here.

**12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.**

God has all of the resources necessary to save everyone who will believe Him and trust Him.

No matter how big the pile of sin is

No matter how wicked the behavior

God doesn't make a distinction between Jew or Gentile, He will save anyone who calls on Him.

The Jew and Gentile – they may have language distinctions or cultural distinctions

But in God's eyes – there is no distinction –



Why? Verse 13

**13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."**

Remember – we keep this in context – Paul has turned his attention to his fellow Jew.

In Chapter 9 - Paul showed how salvation was not an issue of one's heritage.

The Jews of that day believed that their physical descent from Abraham ensured that they were saved.

They looked down upon the Gentiles – they considered them inferior and unworthy of either God or heaven.

So – Paul stripped away the Jewish confidence in their lineage from Abraham and reminded them that the basis of their salvation is nothing other than the mercy of God.

God shows compassion upon those He chooses to show compassion to –

That is what God told Moses in the wilderness and God doesn't change –

He is sovereign – whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.

Paul quotes here from Joel 2:32

As he gives us evidence that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will embrace forgiveness and redemption and acceptance and salvation.

By the way – did you notice that Paul doesn't simply say –

Whoever calls on the Lord shall be saved?

He says – whoever calls on the name of the Lord

And I had you make a note of the phrase on the name of the Lord

Why is the Name of the Lord important?

Because when Paul talks about the name of the Lord

He means everything that the name stands for.

When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and told him to go deliver the Jews from bondage, Moses asked who he should say sent him.

He wanted to know God's name

What was God's response – "I AM"

this speaks of God's eternity and completeness

this reveals God's sufficiency and provision

in other words, because God is, He becomes all that His people need

when they need deliverance, He becomes **Deliverer**

when they need guidance, He becomes **Leader**

when they need food, He becomes **provider**

when they are sick, He becomes **healer**

when they are attacked by enemies, He becomes their **Captain and Strength**

This is why Paul says that whoever calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved.

the call is the cry of those who see themselves as lost sinners in need of a Savior

to those who call, He becomes their **salvation**

Paul's main point of emphasis here is WHOEVER calls will be saved

the "whoever" is stressed and emphatic!

All who call on the name of the Lord will be saved

What must we do to be saved? Call on the name of the Lord

The absolute promise is that those who call on the name of the Lord shall be saved – don't missed that.

It is not – let's hope that if everything works out we will be saved

Or there is a slims chance we will saved

It says shall be saved

The genuine believer – the person who believes in their heart, who has called on the name of the Lord – that person is not hoping for salvation.

That person has already experienced salvation.

It is only in Jesus Christ where we have assurance of salvation, forgiveness of sin, entrance into God's family and the guarantee that when we die, we go to heaven.

**14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"**

Here in verse 14 and 15 –

Paul challenges the believer with a sobering set of questions.

There are a total of four questions.

**If calling on the Lord is the way to be saved, then what does one need in order to call on Him?**

Well, first of all before I can call, I have to be convinced that Jesus is able to help me

I have to come to see that I am lost and in need of a Savior and then I have to believe that Jesus is the Savior I need

But how can I believe Jesus is the Savior I need unless someone tells me about Him

And how can someone tell me about Him unless someone purposes to tell me

What Paul is driving at here is that we need to be purposeful in our commitment to preach the gospel!

And many people mistakenly read this (especially verse 15) and associate it with – this means missionary work – those that God calls to go to Africa or the jungles in Mexico – through various organizations.

The sending that Paul is talking about here isn't done by some organization, it's the sending by the Holy Spirit

And this is something every believer is called to—we are all sent

It could be in our own neighborhood, even at Walmart

**[Mat 28:19-20 NKJV] 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, [even] to the end of the age." Amen.**

Going should be the natural result of true worship.

But before we proclaim the message

We must know the message

We must believe the message

We must have experienced forgiveness, we must have experienced hope, we must have experienced salvation.

We must have simple love of Jesus

Because if we love Jesus and our love for Jesus begins to grow – then we begin to think about and care about and love the things that Jesus loves.

We become concerned with the things that He is concerned about

Jesus loves people

He loves the Jewish people

He loves the Gentile people

Jesus as He is making His way to the cross – He weeps over Jerusalem

He weeps over the lost sheep of the house of Israel

And our love for Jesus is in fact a gift that God has given to us

The reason that we love Him is because He loved us first (1 John 4:19)

So we go!

And He has promised to be with us - **I am with you always, [even] to the end of the age." Amen.**

So - We are to proclaim the message with clarity.

We must not make the message harder than it is -

- 1. We have a problem – our sin separates us from God.**
- 2. God has a solution – He sent Jesus to die on a cross, to pay the penalty for our sins.**
- 3. We must respond – we need to turn from our sins and receive God’s free gift. We need to believe and “call on the name of the Lord”.**

So Paul’s argument here is –

What good is a gospel if no one ever hears

And so at the end of verse 15 – Paul quotes from Isaiah –

**"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"**

When we think of beautiful –

Our focus is usually on face or skin or hair – but rarely the feet.

So it's interesting that from heaven's perspective, beauty would be located in our feet.

What makes feet gorgeous to God is that they've carried the Good news of Jesus to others.

Not whether our toes are in perfect symmetry.

It's not the painted toenails with lil' flowers & ladybugs.

What makes them beautiful to God is that they move to the rhythm of His desire to save the lost.

You see church,

By all accounts, Apostle Paul was not a very attractive guy.

He was short –

He had a crusty eye

He was bald

People didn't think much of his appearance

He looked rough

So, no – Paul would've won no beauty contest among the Greeks & Romans who prized physical beauty even more than we do



But where Paul had them beat was on the beauty of his feet.

As he was led by the Holy Spirit through Asia minor proclaiming the Gospel of Grace to Jew and Gentile alike as he was obedient to God's calling upon his life.

By the time Paul writes this letter – he had walked 1900 miles on his feet

Beautiful feet –

But it wasn't his feet that were beautiful – it was the gospel that he proclaimed that was beautiful because it revealed the truth about God.

The Gospel reveals God's willingness to love us and forgive us to redeem us.

The gospel reveals the love of God and the truth about Jesus

Paul's point in this is that we must be purposeful in our going with the gospel to the lost

**16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our report?"**

Just because the gospel is proclaimed –

It is no guarantee that it is going to be received.

Paul understood this first hand as he traveled from city to city.

He found those who embraced the gospel and those who rejected the gospel.

Not every nonbeliever who walks through the door will leave here believing.

The Jews heard the gospel – but for the most part, they did not embrace the gospel.

And so Paul quotes from Isaiah again –

Isaiah 53 – About the Suffering Messiah

That the Messiah was going to suffer for us

That He is going to be despised and rejected by men

A man of sorrows

That the iniquity of us all would be put on Him.

And Isaiah asks the question –

"LORD, who has believed our report?" Who is going to believe this?

the answer – not many.

Paul understands that not everyone will believe – even – when given the opportunity to believe.

That many won't listen even when given the opportunity to listen.

And just because some people chose not to listen to the gospel or embrace the gospel – it is no reason to abandon the gospel or neglect sharing the gospel.

We are never responsible whether a person chooses to embrace or neglect the gospel.

**17 So then faith [comes] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

the Christian life is a life of faith

and faith is only fed and nurtured by the Word of God

when we find ourselves in a season of being a weak and struggling Christian,

it's inevitable that the reason is because we are not getting a consistent diet of the Word.

This is why we teach chapter by chapter and verse by verse – through the bible.

Because it is meant to increase our faith.

It is meant to build out faith

The concept in this verse is that for a person to have saving faith, they need to hear God's word.

And in order to share His word, we must know God's word.

Full faith is grounded in the whole counsel of God.

As a believer – if someone approaches us and asks the question – “Why are you a Christian?”

We should be able to answer that.

I was a sinner in need of a Savior

I was empty – living in constant condemnation

I believed in God but I did not know Him

But God, put a burden in someone's heart to share the gospel with me that Jesus loves me and died for me and I no longer have to live in condemnation, that I can have peace with God and the peace of God.

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace

And my prayer this morning is that we may all have beautiful feet in the eyes of heaven – just like Paul.

Let's pray...

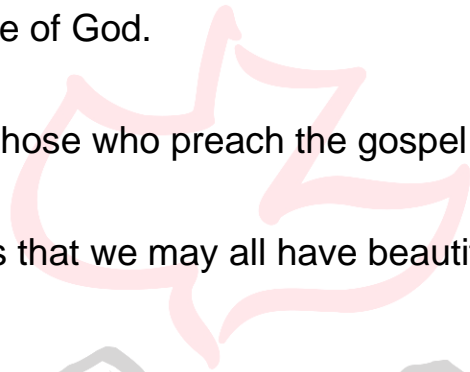
To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.



CALVARY  
Santa Cruz

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

An old dead dude –

An American Theologian

Lewis Sperry Chafer

“Anyone can devise a plan by which good people may go to Heaven. Only God can devise a plan whereby sinners, who are His enemies, can go to Heaven.”

And that church – is the gospel of grace

CALVARY  
Santa Cruz

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

