

Bibles???

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 this amazing letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to a group of believers in Rome and to us today about grace –

Explaining to us - how the just shall live by faith

God's redemptive plan

That we are made righteous in God's eyes not by following a list of do's and don'ts or by adhering to religious rules, or by trying to simply be a better person or having membership in a certain church or denomination

We are made righteous in God's eyes when we put our faith and trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ upon the cross and in His resurrection.

We are not made righteous by **doing** –

We are made righteous by what He has already **done!!!**

That is the Gospel of Grace!!!

That is the Gospel of God

That is the Gospel of His Son

And we receive it by faith.

This is what Paul is going to be sharing with us this morning in our text –

How righteousness comes from God alone.

Let's pray...

Read Text -

As the Apostle Paul has been sharing with us about the grace –

His attention turned to his fellow Jews – who for the most part, had rejected the Gospel of grace.

And so – we have these 3 chapters – 9,10,11

Where Paul shares God's dealings with Israel in the past and their constant rebellion –

Ch 9

God's dealing with Israel in the present (as Paul writes this letter) – Ch 10

And how God will deal with the nation of Israel in the future – Ch 11

Now –

Something else that distinguishes the three chapters is that in CH 9 –

Paul's emphasis was on God's election / His sovereignty

He is the Potter – we are the clay

His way is perfect

And because He is God, He has the right to choose who is going to be a vessel of honor,

He has the right to choose who the vessels of mercy will be – those who He is going to make known the riches of His glory –

Remember Paul anticipates the listeners to the letter ask – what about the Jews?

Why has God temporarily set aside the Jews and is now using the Gentiles?

So we have God's sovereignty in CH 9

And here in CH 10 – Paul emphasis is on God's justice.

And the same two questions can be asked regarding God's justice

what about the Jews?

Why has God temporarily set aside the Jews and is now using the Gentiles?

And the answer – because the Gentiles embraced the gospel of grace and the Jews for the most part – rejected the gospel of grace.

The same can be said about anyone who is not saved.

The reason that they are lost is because of their willful rejection of the gospel, their willful rejection of Jesus Christ, their willful rejection of grace.

God rejected Israel because they rejected their Messiah

And the only way God will reject anyone is if they reject Christ.

Let's look at our text -

[Rom 10:5-10 NKJV] 5 For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them."

I had you make a note of the word righteousness here in verse 5 – we have to understand that Paul is referring to the ability to be made acceptable before God
That's what righteousness is.

And as we saw last week, there is the righteousness that is made available through works / through the law – this is the righteousness that the Jews were trying to attain.

But Paul wants to show them that it has always been a faith righteousness and not one based on works.

And so - Paul quotes from the book of Leviticus –

Turn to Leviticus 18

Now – to add a little context to the Book of Leviticus and the giving of the law –

God gave Moses and the Children of Israel the Law when He had delivered them up Egypt.

It was God's way of saying -

You guys are not going to continue in the ways that you lived while in Egypt

You are not going to live according to the Egyptian culture, you are not going to worship the way the Egyptians worship, you are not going to treat each other the way they treated each other.

Also, I am not going to take you guys into the Promised Land so that you can be like the Canaanites –

I am setting you apart -

This is how I want you to live and this is how I want you to worship Me

You are going to love Me and trust Me and serve Me

[Lev 18:5 NKJV] 5 'You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I [am] the LORD.

The law says - if one follows the Law perfectly, that person will have “life”.

However, the righteousness which comes from the Law only comes when one does the entire law perfectly.

That means living a life without blemish

That means living a life without transgressions

That means meeting God's perfect standard

If someone chooses this route and stumbles in one area – done. It's over.

This is what James tells

[Jas 2:10 NKJV] 10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one [point], he is guilty of all.

One can adhere to 99% of the law – but James says that if they stumble one time – you failed it all.

Did you have cheese on your burger? You're out!

You swallowed a gnat as you were taking an evening walk – tough break.

Are you wearing a shirt with mixed fabrics? You're history!

Did you travel more than a certain distance on the Sabbath? You're busted!

Man is unable to keep the law perfectly because the law from the beginning - was given to sinners.

The Children of Israel while they were in Egypt – they were already sinners.

So when the law was given to them – the law had already condemned them.

The law had told them that death was a required payment for breaking the law.

Someone had to die for the remission of their sins.

And for those who seek to attain God's righteousness by the law – that is exactly what happens to them.

The law condemns them.

And it will continue to condemn that person.

Adhering to the law might give the outward impression of a changed life –

I am following a list of don's and don'ts. I am a good person – I don't drink, I don't smoke

But the law cannot change a person from the inside.

Only Jesus can.

He will change our hearts and our minds as we are conformed into His image by the power of the Holy Spirit.

That is the purpose of the law – to point us to – Jesus

Jesus is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes because the purpose of the law is fulfilled in Jesus.

I had you make note – My statutes, My judgments.

Here is what Paul is doing –

Paul is reminding us that the source of God's standard of righteousness isn't the law, the source of God's standard of righteousness isn't even in the giving of the law.

The source of the standard of God's righteousness is God Himself.

My statutes

My judgments

God is the standard

God is the measure

That is why salvation is only found in Jesus by grace through faith – it has always been that way.

6 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down [from above])

Now really quick – the parenthesis that we see here, this is Paul's commentary on the verses that he is quoting.

7 or, " 'Who will **descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).**

Turn with me to Deuteronomy 30

Again – I want to read these verses that Paul quotes here in context.

In Deuteronomy 30 –

Moses is giving his farewell address to the Children of Israel.

[Deu 30:11-14 NKJV] 11 "For this commandment which I command you today [is] not [too] mysterious for you, nor [is] it far off. 12 "It [is] not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' 13 "Nor [is] it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' 14 "But the word [is] very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

So, Moses in his final address to the Children of Israel –

He says guys, you already have what you need.

You have already received the law – so you don't have to go up to heaven to bring it down

You don't have to go out of your way - cross the oceans to bring it back or send someone to go searching for it and bring it back

it is near

You already have it here.

All you have to do is lovingly obey it.

So Paul – as he is quoting Moses in Deuteronomy, he is giving a bible study and commenting on how the gospel is found even in the writings of Moses.

He reapplies those words from to Jesus Christ and to grace

Paul's point is that it is not necessary for someone to ascend to heaven because Christ has already come down to us.

God has already taken on human flesh and dwelt among us.

[Jhn 1:17 NKJV] 17 For the law was given through Moses, [but] grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

And so the Gospel of grace doesn't require us to climb to heaven and drag Jesus off of His throne so He can show us how we may be made right before Him

Because He has already done it.

He was already born of a virgin

He already lived a perfect life

He already did exactly what needed to be done

The work of Jesus is finished

Our responsibility is to simply trust that.

I also had you make a note - 'Who will descend into the abyss?'

Moses in Deuteronomy uses “go over the sea for us”

But Paul uses the word abyss

It is the word used for the bottomless pit – the common place of the dead.

We find the same word in the NT in Luke 8:31 – when Jesus has this conversation with the demon possessed man

We find it multiple times in Revelation.

It refers to the dwelling place of demons.

So Paul - changes Moses’ words from “the sea” to “the abyss” because it fits the point of the gospel better.

Jesus didn’t just go across some sea to save us, He died for us.

And He rose again.

He went to hell and back.

Now – let’s put our thinking caps on.

Paul addresses here the two biggest stumbling blocks for the Jews

- That God took on human flesh / lived a perfect life / became the perfect sacrifice / died for us
- And rose again

By the way – these are two biggest stumbling blocks for any nonbeliever –

Anyone who says that they can attain God's righteousness apart from Christ.

Church, in order to experience righteousness by faith, being accepted by God and acceptable to God

We have to be willing to accept what God has given.

This is Paul's point –

Does the gospel ask men and women to do something that they are unable to do?

No!!!

What does the gospel say?

Paul answers that in verse 8 -

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):

The "word" here is in reference to the Gospel of Grace

The gospel is near

The gospel is not difficult to understand

The gospel is accessible

The gospel is attainable and available to everyone.

It is offered to all

Paul wants us to understand that salvation is not hidden –

One doesn't have to go anywhere or join anything

But often – people miss it because they are looking for complexity.

Grace is too simple

I must do something – give me a list of dos and donts

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.

Romans 10:9 – we have the gospel

The offer of salvation is given

The invitation is extended

But how is God's offer of salvation accepted?

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.

Salvation requires consent and confession

It requires the person wanting to be saved

Consenting to be saved –

We consent to God's plan

Nobody can consent in our behalf

Parents can do it for you, your pastor can't do it for you, your husband can't do it for you.

We have to come by faith

We have to believe with our heart –

Not just hope that Jesus died for my sins and rose from the grave.

It is believing with all of our sum and substance the gospel.

It is having saving faith.

It is having an inward conviction of the truth of the gospel.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

In verse 9

Paul wrote - if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart

Confession first and belief second

But here in verse 10 – notice, Paul flips the order –

with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation

belief first and confession second

Why is this important?

Turn with me to Luke 6

[Luk 6:43-45 NKJV] 43 "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 44 "For every tree is known by its own fruit. For [men] do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. 45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

In order for a person to be truly saved –

They have to believe in their hearts

And once you believe in your heart – you begin to speak it out

We all live from our heart outward –

Whatever it is that we believe that is what we speak about.

[Mat 10:32-33 NKJV] 32 “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 “But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

[Jhn 12:42-43 NKJV] 42 Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess [Him], lest they should be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

The ability to confess is only made possible because in our hearts –

We already believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In my notes – I have a quote from some old dead guy –

It's possible to act without being, but it's impossible to be without actions

Genuine faith in Jesus WILL be manifested in our speech.

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.

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.

[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.'