



8/12/26

I love that we're learning about the gospel this week. Today's passage lines up so beautifully with the 10th reason to rehearse the gospel to ourselves every day from A Gospel Primer. The author speaks of us not only being able to rest in Christ's righteousness, but the beauty of becoming a "slave to righteousness." It's the only slavery that is totally worth it!!! Here's what he says ~ "'Sanctification' is merely the lifelong process wherein I joyfully surrender myself to God's imputed righteousness and then do whatever this righteousness directs me to do... The more I exult in the reality of my justification in Christ, the more I position myself to experience the full governing force of its sanctifying power in my life. And the more sanctified I become, the more I experience the full breadth of eternal life that God has given to me in Christ." Amen. God has so much goodness for us!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Romans 10:1-10 ~

Recently, Tim and I watched a video of a Messianic Jew sharing the gospel with an Orthodox Jew. It was very interesting. I can see why Paul would have such a broken heart over his Jewish people who couldn't see that Jesus was (and is) the Messiah. In the video, the young Orthodox Jew was intelligent and kind, and he knew the law... but he didn't know the scriptures. He studied what other Jewish scholars wrote about the scriptures, but he didn't study the scriptures. I know of, and have met, people who actually studied the scriptures to try to prove that Jesus was NOT the Messiah... and then were so overwhelmed by the power of the word that they were saved. I pray that my heart would be broken over those who reject the Lord and that I would pray for them faithfully, as Paul did. I pray for that Orthodox Jew I saw on the video, that he would turn to Jesus his Messiah and be saved. I

bet someone was faithfully praying for everyone of those people who tried to negate the word and were saved by it instead.

Vs. 1-4 ~ "Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

Paul's heart's desire, the delight of his heart, would be to see his Jewish people saved. Would the delight of my heart be to see my unsaved friends and family saved? Paul backed up his words of desire with the action of prayer. He faithfully prayed for them to turn to the Lord in repentance. Do I faithfully pray for my unsaved loved ones to turn to the Lord in repentance?

I need to be careful not to assume that because someone calls himself a Christian, that person is a Christian. Even the Jewish people have a zeal for God, but they don't actually KNOW Him personally. They reject God's explanation of how to be saved through Jesus, and they make up their own rules. So many people do that! Some people call themselves "spiritual people" whose faith is personal and private. But scripture talks about a faith so strong that we are compelled to share.

I remember many years ago, I had a friend from church who talked extremely passionately about a health product that everyone NEEDS. And a friend of hers was even MORE insistent! I was a little less gentle in my words back then. 🙄 I hope I've grown in that. I can still be kinda sassy. (O Lord, please change that in me!) But I said to my friend, "Can you imagine the difference you and your friend could make if you talked about Jesus the way you talk about that product?" 🙄 Of course, I have been guilty of the same thing!!! Talking about other things with passion and "wanting to be careful not to offend" when talking about Jesus... which was code for... "I don't want people to reject me."

But the hope of the gospel is so worth talking about!!! The beautiful news is "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." He is the culmination of the law because He is the fulfillment of the law. He doesn't want us to try to find another way to Him because there is no other way to Him. Why would there be no other way? Because no other way is good enough! Even the law of Moses cannot be obeyed without fail! And the truth is... all other ways man thinks up to get to God are based on us earning our way. Salvation through Jesus is the only way that is based on HIS work, not ours. If His gift of salvation is so free and wonderful, WHY would we try

to earn it??? I know the answer for me... If I can earn it, I get the credit. That's pride. To truly believe in the Lord Jesus is to admit that I am helpless and unable to be good enough. That takes humility. O Lord, help us to see how huge You are and how much You love us, that You would pay our debt so that we could turn to You in faith!

Vs. 5-7 ~ "For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)."

Moses taught the law which demands righteousness... perfection in doing what pleases God. It is IMPOSSIBLE to do without fail. Paul wrote in Galatians 3:10-12, "For all who rely on works of the law are under a CURSE; for it is written, 'Cursed be everyone who does not abide by ALL things written in the Book of the Law, and DO them.' Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for 'The righteous shall live by faith.' But the law is not of faith, rather 'The one who does them shall live by them.'" When I see this, I WANT to hold to the promise that Jesus is the end of the law for my righteousness. Romans 5:17 says He gives me the FREE GIFT of righteousness. Trying to earn my own way to Him, in whatever form that takes, leaves me under the weight of a curse! But Galatians 3:13-14 tells me that Jesus Christ became a curse FOR me SO THAT I could receive the promised Holy Spirit through FAITH.

What in the world did Paul mean about bringing Christ down from heaven or up from the abyss??? I think he meant... Just like I don't have the power to ascend to heaven... even if Elon Musk ever makes it to Mars... even he doesn't have the money or the intelligence to go to heaven and get Jesus. The beauty and the truth of the gospel is that JESUS came for US!!! Ephesians 4:9-10 tells me that Jesus Himself descended to this earth and then went back to heaven where He came from SO THAT He might fill all things! His way is the best way, and it is the ONLY way!!! What He offers is exponentially greater than anything man can come up with for salvation.

Vs. 8-10 ~ "But what does it say? 'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

The word... Jesus Christ... is near me. "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God" (John 1:1). He came near to

me! So what does He require for salvation??? FAITH. Faith in what? Faith in His gift... that I...

A... admit that I'm helpless without Him, the walking dead, carried about by my sinful passions (Ephesians 2:1-3).

B... Believe IN MY HEART that Jesus gave His life for me and rose from the dead. This is a big deal. Believing IN MY HEART means that I stake my emotions, feelings, motives, and choices on this truth. Believing in my heart leads to the C of confession... Just saying the words, "I believe" leads to continuing in my helpless, hopeless, walking dead self. The C changes everything.

C... Confess Jesus as Lord... Master... the one in charge of my life... in charge of my decisions... in charge of my plans... in charge of how I treat others... in charge of my purpose. When I truly confess Him as Lord, submission to Him is what my heart desires and chooses.

With my heart I believe. What I get for putting my faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ from the depths of my feelings, emotions, motives, and choices will bring me justification... righteousness... the declaration of innocence before God. God calls me innocent. He treats me with the same innocence as Jesus had. He gives me the free gift of righteousness simply for believing Him.

With my mouth I confess... I acknowledge... I agree that Jesus is my Lord and I receive salvation... eternal life with Him.

This is the gospel!!! Why would I want anything else? O Lord, please help me to understand that the gospel impacts, not just my "ticket into heaven," but it impacts my purpose in my life... the center of my love... the way I live. Let me never forget what You went through to descend to this earth and pay my debt that I could not pay. Please help me to see that living for the world now is like trying to fit a square peg into a round hole... but living for You is a perfect fit of Your circle filling the hole in my heart. Praise You for what You've done and what You continue to do! How can I stay silent about that???