

Romans
Faith, Family, and Fullness
Part 9
Romans 10

Sanctification

- Set apart wholly for God and His purposes.
- Filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

1. Zealous for God.
 - *Romans 10:9-13*

2. Declare and Believe.
 - *Romans 10:14-15*

3. Bring Good News.
 - *Romans 10:17*

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Romans: Faith, Family, Fullness

Part 9: Romans 10

It is good to be back from vacation. My family had a great time the last two weeks. We took our trailer on a road trip to southern California, and it was wonderful. I was going to be back last Sunday, but on the way back, our car over heated and blew the motor, so much for saving money on plane tickets. Vacation was still great though. Our car broke down last Saturday night, and we called tow trucks and they said, you might need to find a friend to tow your trailer because they didn't have the ability to. So, who do we know in LaGrande. Well, I did know one family from when we lived in Idaho. Not only did they come tow our trailer, but they took my family to their house, cooked breakfast and they even sang happy birthday to Leo before bed. So, Sunday morning, I sent messages to my children's ministry leaders that I wouldn't make it. One of my friends from our small group, Alex, was helping in kids' ministry that day, he got my message that we wouldn't make it and then asked where I was. I told him, and he said he'd be there in a few hours. My friend, Hector came too and the three of us towed the car and trailer the last three hours of the trip. I was and I am so thankful for our church family. The best way to connect with others from church, and grow those kinds of relationships is in a small group. So, if you aren't in one, let me or another pastor know, and we can get you into one.

Even with car trouble, we had a great time on vacation and today we continue our summer series in Romans, today we look at chapter 10. If you are like me and you missed the last two weeks, or any other weeks of the summer, remember, we live-stream and record the services online, so you can watch any that you miss. Romans is a letter that Paul wrote, and if you were reading a letter, you wouldn't just read the last half, you would probably want to see what else is in it. We are in the last half of the letter now, and if you missed any, I'd encourage you to go back and watch or read the previous sermons. Everything after Romans 8 is showing us what a sanctified life looks like.

Sanctification is to be...

"Set apart wholly for God and His purposes,"

and to be...

"Filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit."

We'll see the sanctified life in greater detail this morning throughout chapter 10. Starting with verse 1:

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. (Romans 10:1-4)

Living a Sanctified life in chapter 10 starts off by showing us the importance of being zealous for God...

1. Zealous for God.

Zealous means to show energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or something you believe in. Paul warns the Romans not to be like the Israelites, who were Zealous for God, but not in the right way, not for what really mattered. The Israelites followed the law, because they wanted righteousness, and they thought righteousness had to be earned. Earlier in this letter, Paul already said that righteousness comes from faith in God (like Abraham), it doesn't come from following the law. God said Abraham was righteous because He had faith, Abraham was righteous before the law was even established. The law was the measuring stick, so people knew where they fell short. When Paul experienced Jesus, he realized that the focus shouldn't be on the laws they had created, but it should be on Jesus, the culmination of the law. They were zealous for God and the laws because of how it made them look. Paul knew this because that is how he was before he met Jesus. He was all about the law, and following it perfectly. Paul didn't want the Romans to be like himself, or like the Israelites, zealous for God but not because of their love for God. It wasn't based on knowledge because they wanted righteousness, and didn't understand that righteousness comes from faith. Paul tries to correct them for being zealous for the wrong reasons. The Israelites were focused more on the law than on Jesus. Yes, they were zealous, but not for what mattered most. We can get that way too. We focus on things that don't matter. What do you get passionate about? If you aren't sure, what do you spend your time talking about? What do you think about? What do you spend your money on? The sanctified life means we care about what Jesus cares about. What Jesus was passionate about, is what we should be passionate about. You can be zealous and passionate about other things too, Seahawks, politics, your job, I know some of you are passionate about being right. But the sanctified life means our passion for God comes first and outweighs anything else. The Holy Spirit helps us with this. So we can care most about God and his love for others. Being Zealous for God is not just coming to church, or copying and pasting a Bible verse online. It's more than reading our Bible or saying a prayer. When we declare Jesus as our Lord, we are saying, He is #1. We want what he wants, and we want it more than anything else. Let's go back to Paul's letter, starting in verse 9 of chapter 10:

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord." And believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blessed all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:9-13)

The next part of living a sanctified life is the need for us to...

2. Declare and Believe.

The first part of this passage made me laugh this week because I remembered a TV show, where the boss is having money problems. It had gotten so bad for this guy that someone tells him that he should just declare bankruptcy. So, he comes out to where all the other coworkers are and in a loud voice he yells, “I declare bankruptcy!” Then he goes back to his office and that’s it. Well, the accountant in the office goes in and says, “You can’t just say it and expect anything to happen.” The boss goes, “I didn’t say it, I declared it.” Depending on your Bible translation, yours might say, “declare, profess, or confess”. The point is, we cannot just say “Jesus is Lord” and expect anything to happen just because we said it. It is more than just uttering words; it is a public declaration of our allegiance to Christ. This confession is an essential aspect of our faith, as it demonstrates our willingness to identify with Jesus and submit to His lordship in our lives. One of the great things about the church family is we have opportunities like baptism and communion, where we put our faith, into words and actions. It’s a way for us to live what we believe in what we say about Jesus. In a few weeks we’re going to have a baptism service for people to share and show the choice they have made to follow Jesus. Later today in the service will take part in communion where we will as a church remember the things that Jesus has said and done for us because he loves us. Our words, and what we say about Jesus are important, but our words are not enough. When Jesus is our Lord, we live to serve Him. We live to please Him. Our words and actions should be different, and we should stand out in our community, because Jesus is our Lord. Last month I preached on Romans 3. In that sermon I introduced what I grew up learning as the Roman road. A series of verses that can be read to lead someone on the road to salvation, the road to following Jesus. In chapter 3, we have the first verse, 3:23...

For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

For the penalty of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. (Romans 6:23)

Romans 5:8 says:

But God demonstrates His love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

So, from these first 3 verses, we know that we sin, we know the penalty for our sin, and we know what Jesus did to save us from our sin. The end of the road is 10:9-10...

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

Declare and believe. A retired pastor and mentor of mine made the distinction between salvation and sanctification like this. Salvation is calling Jesus your Savior; sanctification is calling Jesus your Lord. We ask Jesus to forgive us, cleanse us, and help us repent and turn from our sin so we can follow Him entirely. The Holy Spirit helps us to do it. The Holy Spirit will help us to be zealous, and help us declare and believe, and there is one more we can take from chapter 10, in verse 14:

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14-15)

Living a sanctified life, means we are expected to Bring good news...

3. Bring Good News.

This is how the message of Jesus has spread all over the world. God sends someone, they preach (or proclaim the message of Jesus), people hear it, and they believe. Those who believe, then go share the news they have heard with others, they hear and believe, and on and on. Many of you are sitting here today because someone brought good news to you. God changes someone, and they are sent to share the love they have experienced with others. The sanctified life means we are all supposed to bring good news for others. Our church's main objective on this corner in West Valley is to introduce people to Jesus. This is not just something we do on Sundays, it's also why we send kids and teens to camp, and why we run Upward Soccer, it's why we help students with homework and supplies, it's why we live stream our service. Everything we do as a church, helps us in words or actions, to introduce people to Jesus.

In Romans 10:15, Paul says that your feet are beautiful when you bring good news. Feet are gross. I have never looked at someone's feet and thought, wow, beautiful. Little baby feet are cute, and women's feet aren't as gross because most of you ladies take care of your feet, but men's feet, there is nothing beautiful about. Gross nails, long toes, hair, ew. I doubt Paul really thought feet were beautiful, even God probably didn't when he made Adam. God may have recreated the feet, but He probably knew we'd eventually wear socks and shoes to cover them up. This is how incredibly good the good news is: Even ugly gross feet can be made beautiful when we are delivering the good news about Jesus. When we have experienced the love of Jesus, we want to share it with others, because we know how good it is.

Everyone can bring good news, because the good news is for everyone...

for “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

God wants to use you at work, at home, in your neighborhood, to bring good news. How can people believe the good news if they don't hear it? How will they hear it if people don't tell them? How can people tell them if they don't go? Living the sanctified life, means we leave here, to bring good news. It means we leave home to bring good news, we leave work to bring good news. Wherever we go, we bring good news. One final thought from Paul in verse 17 from chapter 10:

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. (Romans 10:17)

Ever have a lack of faith? What are you hearing? Faith comes from hearing the message, from listening to Jesus. My faith is not strengthened when I see the news, or when I get online; my faith is strengthened when I focus on Jesus.

So, we are going to end our time today with communion, so we can focus on Jesus. So, we can have faith to leave here and be the beautiful feet who bring good news to others, so we can have faith to be zealous for what matters, zealous for God's love, zealous for people, and zealous to share his love with them. Let's pray that we can have faith to make Jesus not just our savior, but our Lord. The one we look to for everything, and the one we live for.

Prayer

Communion

Dismiss