

## "You Will Be Saved"

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### Romans 10:8-13

The way to get ahead in the world is to either be born into the right family, right social status or right caste, or (and this is predominantly in the U.S.) you work really hard and take advantage of opportunities that come your way. That may be true in the world when it comes to money and investments, but that is not the way things go in the economy of God. But isn't that how we think about spiritual things? If you're born into it or work hard at it, God has to let you into heaven and bless you in the ways you want to be blessed. Original readers of Paul's letter to the Romans thought the very same things. Those of Jewish descent believed that they were born into the right family or ethnicity and that if they worked really hard at doing the law, they would be saved. Paul confronts them and us here in Romans 10:8-13.

#### The accessibility of faith in Christ (v. 8)

- This word, this faith, is not far away from you and unattainable. It is near. It's not so very hard. In fact, it is simple. If you have a mouth and a heart, the seat of your being, the who-ness of who you are, then this faith is accessible for you. AND this faith is a gift from God! (Ephesians 2:8)
- "[I]nstead of requiring superhuman exertion, salvation is obtained simply by confessing with the lips and having faith in the heart."<sup>1</sup>
- John Stott writes, "There is no need whatever for us to scale the heights or plumb the depths in search of Christ, for he has already come, died and risen, and so is accessible to us."<sup>2</sup>

#### The exclusivity of faith in Christ (vv. 9-10)

- Believe and be saved is the necessary response for you as a sinner. That's the big obstacle. It's the intellectually coherent response and the spiritually liberating response.
- Your confession and your heart posture must be the same. This is not about lip-service or saying something you think God wants to hear. He knows your heart.
- "Sincerity is not enough, for we may be sincerely mistaken."<sup>3</sup>
- The appeal of legalism and "niceness."
- "As Calvin justly commented, 'the first step to obtaining the righteousness of God is to renounce our own righteousness.'<sup>4</sup>
- In verse 10, Paul employs a Hebrew poetry form by repeating the same idea, but in a slightly different way, expanding on it.
- **The availability of faith in Christ (v. 10)** Belief or faith is putting your whole weight into something. In this case it means to fully trust Christ with your life.
- **The benefits of faith in Christ** – justification before God.
  - "So close a relation does Paul establish between the righteousness of God and faith that one cannot mention the former without thinking of the latter."<sup>5</sup>
- **The assurance of faith in Christ** – You will be saved!

#### The availability of faith in Christ (vv. 11-12)

- This is not in contrast to the election of God. God chooses his people AND everyone who believes is part of the people whom he chooses. We cannot choose him outside of his work in us and him choosing us first.
- Righteousness can come through perfect obedience to the law of God. The problem is we cannot perfectly obey the law. God's solution is that Jesus did perfectly obey the law. Therefore, through Jesus Christ's perfect obedience to the law, all who believe in him are saved.

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<sup>1</sup> Hendriksen, William, *Romans*, New Testament Commentary, p. 345

<sup>2</sup> Stott, John, *Romans: God's Good News for the World*, p. 283.

<sup>3</sup> Stott, John, *Romans: God's Good News for the World*, p. 280.

<sup>4</sup> Stott, John quoting John Calvin, *Romans: God's Good News for the World*, p. 281.

<sup>5</sup> Moo, Douglas J., *The Epistle to the Romans*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament, pp. 633-634.

- **The benefits of faith in Christ** – you will not be put to shame.
  - Because Christ took our shame, we will not be put to shame. (Galatians 5:21, Hebrews 12:2, Hebrews 13:12-13, 1 Peter 4:12-16)
- **The availability of faith in Christ.** It is for Jew and Greek. (v. 12)
  - “Of course there is a fundamental distinction between those who seek righteousness by the law and those who seek it by faith.”<sup>6</sup>
    - There aren't two roads to salvation, one for Jews and one for everyone else. Paul's argument is that salvation has always been through faith or belief alone.
- **The benefits of faith in Christ** – the riches of God (v. 12)
  - The Holy Spirit of God lives in you!
  - You get to walk in his ways.

#### **The assurance of faith in Christ** (v. 13)

- This passage cannot be construed to mean that if you just say you believe in Jesus at one time in your life, you will be saved. This is not about some stand-alone statement that someone might make. Paul clearly tells us here in Romans that your confession and belief are borne out in how you live.
  - Here in verse 13, he quotes Joel 2:32 saying that all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.
  - That call implies need. That call implies trust. That call implies ongoing faith.
- **The assurance of faith in Christ.** Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord WILL be saved.

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<sup>6</sup> Stott, John, *Romans: God's Good News for the World*, p. 285.