

Romans 10:4-8

Christ and the Righteousness of Faith

1. 10:4 – The End of the Law for Righteousness

- a. We have not seen “Christ” since Rom 9:5 – why?
 - i. We’ve been learning about Israel’s failure to receive the promise in the OT.
 - ii. Ch9 teaches promise not flesh. Ch10: faith of Christ not law for righteousness
- b. “*Christ is the end of the law*” (Doctrinal arguments ensue) Is the law finished? Or fulfilled?
 - i. He came fulfilling the law – Mat 5:17, Luke 24:27, 24:44 (law-keepers like this)
 - ii. He also puts a stop to something: law for righteousness - John 3:18, 5:24, 12:46-48
 - iii. As its object, Christ came revealing faith. Christ came/faith came - Gal 3:22-25
 - iv. He made righteousness of God without the law possible - Rom 3:21-22, 8:3-4, 9:30
- c. “*the law for righteousness*” – Which describes what was ended - Rom 4:13-14
 - i. The OT law was God’s only religion. Christ ended that for everyone.
- d. “*to every one that believeth*” – since Christ, righteousness comes by faith for all.
 - i. Israel not saved by OT, but by NT. We are saved by neither, but still through faith.
 - ii. Paul explains Israel’s need for faith and not just works of the law - Rom 9:32
 - iii. This is Paul ministering the New Testament concerning Israel (cf. 2 Cor 3:6, 13-14)
- e. When did Christ end this? He was born under the law, taught the law – Rom 3:25, Heb 9:15
 - i. Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb - Gal 3:10-13, 1 Pet 1:18-21 (faith of Christ)
- f. It was not the end of the law for Israel, but the end of the law for righteousness – Heb 7:12

2. 10:5 – Moses and Righteousness

- a. Paul speaks of the end of the law, but then quotes law. (It is still useful, not for righteous)
- b. Moses gave the law, but also knew about mercy/grace – Exo 33:19 (Rom 9:15)
- c. Moses was a friend and special servant of God – Exo 33:11, Num 12: 6-8
- d. Righteousness of the law = “do and live” – Deu 6:25, Lev 18:5, Eze 20:11-13, 21
- e. Jesus taught Moses’ law “do and live” - Luke 10:25-28, Matt 5:17-19, 23:1-3, 23:23
- f. Moses also knew faith: mother, bush, Pharaoh, Passover, red sea, wilderness, manna
- g. The law was not a vain thing for them – Deu 32:45-47, 1 Tim 1:6-7 (our life hid in Christ)

3. 10:6 – Righteousness of Faith

- a. Law for righteousness: when you do right - faith for righteousness = when God does right
- b. Remember, the latter is objected to going back to Rom 3:5, 9:14; faith let’s God be true.
- c. “*speakeeth on this wise*” - Moses spoke in v5, but v6, 7, and 8 are also Moses – Deu 30:12
 - i. Context of Deu 30 speaks to how Israel will return and be saved after God’s wrath.
 - ii. (i.e. Deu 30 speaks of the salvation of remnant Israel through the new covenant)

4. 10:6-7 – Ascend and Descend

- a. “*Who shall ascend into heaven?*” - As if to say, who will go to heaven to see what is true?
 - i. Deu 30:12 – The commandment (word) is not in heaven. It is not hidden. It is given.
 - ii. Deu 30:13 – The word is not far off “beyond the sea”. It is close to them. It is given.
 - iii. They simply had to believe it as the word of God (let him be true) and do it.

- b. Who shall ascend to and descend from heaven fulfilled in Christ – Prov 30:4, John 3:13
- c. *“that is, to bring Christ down from above”* – Christ was sent from heaven from God.
 - i. Jesus knew God, saw God, was God, and had God’s words. Faith believes Christ.
 - ii. Not believing Christ is to ask for a sign from heaven - Matt 16:1-4, Jn 2:18, 6:30-42
 - iii. This brings him down from heaven, making him just a man - Luke 11:29-32
 - iv. The law/Moses spoke of Christ, but they rejected Christ – John 5:39-46
- d. *“Who shall descend into the deep?”* - As to say, who will know the truth of life after death?
- e. *“that is to bring up Christ again from the dead”* – Christ died, and rose from the dead.
 - i. To question life/judgment after death is to deny His resurrection - Acts 17:31
 - ii. The only sign that would be given to them was his resurrection.
- f. These two questions exhibit the blindness of the Pharisees and Sadducees in Israel.

5. 10:8 – The Word of Faith

- a. *“but what saith it?”* - Paul refers to what the law says about the righteousness of faith
- b. *“the word is nigh thee...”* – This from Deu 30:14. They knew it, so they could do it.
- c. *“even in thy mouth, and in thy heart”* - They could repeat it. They could believe it.
- d. *“word of faith”* which must be spoken to be heard, and must be received in the heart.
- e. *“which we preach”* which faith Moses also spoke, which Christ Peter also preach 1Co 15:11
- f. What happened to Israel’s salvation? Does the word of God take effect? (Rom 9:6) Yes!
 - i. As the word of promise (9:9) when it is received (by God’s mercy)
 - ii. As the word of faith (10:8) when it is believed (by Christ’s work)