



Empowering People to Change the World

Believe with your Heart

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The Road Declaration

Believe with your Heart, Confess with your Mouth! (Romans 10)

Last week:

- We looked at the sovereignty of God and His foreknowledge.
- But God's foreknowledge doesn't negate the mercy of God.
- All are invited but not everyone enters:
 - The outside of the door reads: "All who are thirsty come."
 - The inside of the door reads: "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you."
 - A great mystery of God, Deuteronomy 29:29, "**The secret *things* belong to the Lord our God.**"

In Romans 10, Paul continues his discourse on the state of Israel. Israel's present state is that they are still trying to find righteousness through the Jewish religion, the Law.

Paul will explain that righteousness in our life comes from FAITH, not religion, not works of the Law, not outward doings, but inward faith in Christ.

Verse 1

- Last week, we looked at just how deeply Paul longs to see his nation, Israel, come to the Messiah Jesus...Paul continues his theme of deep passion and personal conviction that his people, the nation of Israel, would be saved.
- What is your heart's desire? What is your prayer?
- Not what you're *praying* but what is your prayer? Your Prayer is what you carry around in your heart all the time, something much deeper.
 - What is that deep prayer of your heart?
 - Who are you praying for to get saved?

Verse 2

- Ever since Israel has come back from their captivity in Babylon, they have been zealously against any form of idolatry!
- They were so zealous for the Law that they sought to *improve on it* with new regulations and new interpretations of the Law.
- Once the Jews returned to Israel after their captivity in Babylon, the scholars, rabbis, and scribes began to develop another code of ethics that they added to the Law of Moses, called the Mishnah and Talmud.
 - It began as oral tradition for the interpretation and explanation of the Law, and by the time of Paul, had become inscribed.
 - A collection of these laws was compiled by Rabbi Akiva, who lived during the time of Jesus.
 - These laws were arranged according to subject matter and the Pharisees emphasized these laws.
 - An example would be “to keep the Sabbath holy”, well what does that mean? So, the Mishnah told you exactly what you could and could not do on the Sabbath—a thousand new laws!
 - Six categories or orders to the Talmud and Mishnah: Agriculture, Feasts, Women, Civil and Criminal law, Sacrifices, and Unclean things and their purification.
 - These were divided into *tracts*, of which there were sixty-three, and those were divided into chapters and paragraphs which resulted in thousands of laws, procedures, attitudes, and obligations.
- Many in the church are doing the same thing today—trying to find righteousness through doing religious things...
- These Jews were zealous but without the knowledge of faith in the Messiah.

Verses 3-4

- Their zeal was a natural outgrowth of trying to find righteousness: if keeping the Sabbath is holy and if you want to be holy, how do you keep the Sabbath? So instead of seeking God about why to keep the Sabbath holy in their heart, they sought the Law and how to get more righteous through one's outward actions.

Isaiah 64:6, “...**All our righteousnesses are like filthy rags...**”

- This really is a dilemma when you realize that your good works are nothing then you have to submit to Christ and that takes humility and surrender.
 - You can usually tell someone who is living by the Law rather than by faith. Those who are proud of their religion are really proud of themselves for thinking they are doing all the right things.
 - Those who walk by faith in Christ's power, are those who walk in humility, knowing that only Christ can do it through them.
- Paul had discovered that righteousness can only come through faith:

Philippians 3:9

“and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.”

- Christ is the fulfillment of the Law—by placing our faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit fulfills the law by working within us.

Galatians 3:21-24

“Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the

faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

- The law was a mirror to show us our dirty, filthy face...but you don't wash your face with a mirror!
- Some of you come out of religious backgrounds where you have been bombarded with set rituals, prayers, and liturgies that say somehow to get you right with God...but Jesus is the One you are searching for.

Verse 5

- Instead of letting the Law lead them to Christ, the Jews had chosen to worship the Law itself and lost all understanding of a personal relationship with the Lord.
- So, if you are going to follow the Law, then you must follow it perfectly! Not one single mistake.
- Never lie, never covet, never lust! Who can do that?

Verses 6-8

- Powerful passage—do you see that Paul is saying that the Word *is* Christ and he makes them interchangeable.
- This is not some impossible odyssey through the universe!
- Salvation is not complicated at all:
 - It does not involve over thousands of Mishnah laws.
 - It does not involve going to heaven to bring Christ down.
 - It does not involve going down to hell to bring Christ up.
 - Salvation is not complicated!! Believe with your heart!! Not your mind.

- People are always looking for loopholes or they say, “I just can’t understand it” and try to make it complicated...
- He is right here right now! Christ is not far off! He is near.
- Just as Paul had proclaimed in Athens, Acts 17:27:

“so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.”
- He is saying: *the very Law that you study will lead you to Christ.*
- *The very word of God that you talk about in the synagogue will lead you to Christ.*
- This is not complex...but it does take faith.

Verses 9-10

- No better explanation of salvation has ever been given!
- It is not by practicing the Law and religious ordinances or rituals, but it is the simplicity of two things:
 - Confess with your mouth: *homologeō* in Greek, meaning “to agree” with God that you are a sinner. Say it out loud.
 - Believe in your heart that Christ rose on the third day, and you will be saved.
- It is the very simplicity of the salvation message that is the stumbling block for most people.

Look back at 10:6, “righteousness of faith.”

Faith Righteousness vs. Law Righteousness:

- Law Righteousness was based on what I must do.
- Faith Righteousness is based on what Christ has done.
- Law Righteousness always leads to pride and arrogance because we think we did it, we get cocky about our own righteousness.

- Faith Righteousness always leads to humility.

- You believe with your heart! You confess with your mouth! (say it three times)

“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.” (Revelation 12:10-11)

Verses 11-13

- **“Whoever calls”**—open to anyone! Jesus never turns anyone away.
- In salvation, God doesn’t care if you are a Jew, Gentile, black, white, rich, poor, high IQ, low IQ, big sinner, or a little sinner...you’re all sinful through and through and you will not be ashamed anymore if you give your life to Christ!
- God richly blesses all who come to Him! Wow!
- So, now we come to the human responsibility of it all...

Verses 14-17

How does the Kingdom of God reach the World?

1. Hearing part: people must hear the gospel—God’s not going to write it upon the clouds for them to see.
2. Telling part: this happens as people tell people the good news—angels don’t do it, people do.

3. Sending part: there must be people who are sent out to tell others about Christ.
4. Faith part: faith is actualized when people hear the Word of God spoken to them.

No part of this process can be missing! All of us here are missionaries to someone, somewhere, sometime.

Verse 18

Paul is quoting Psalm 19:

“The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament shows His handiwork.
Day unto day utters speech,
And night unto night reveals knowledge.
There is no speech nor language
Where their voice is not heard.”

- The book of the Law of Nature, creation has met the book of Revelation and yet they still have chosen to reject God.
 - I'll never forget witnessing to a young man, John, who kept saying that if only God would reveal Himself to him he would believe and so I stayed up one night and prayed for God to reveal Himself to John...days later he told me that suddenly one day as he looked at the creation, he felt that there was a real God, and he chose to just forget about it!
- The Jews at this time have chosen to reject God.

Verses 19-21

- God is now using the Gentiles to provoke faith in the Jews!

- Even today, it is the Evangelical Christians that largely fuel the tourism in Israel—we know the Jewish scriptures better than the Jews do.

2 Peter 3:9

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

- God is holding out His hand to the Jews and to each of us to come to Him.
- If you have chosen to reject Christ or have fallen away from the faith you once had, come back today!
 - Religion won't save you!
 - Being a good person won't save you.
 - The simple prescription to new life is found in our passage today: **Romans 10:9-10.**
- **Jesus is either a stumbling stone or steppingstone to New Life.**