

Romans 10:1 *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.*

Paul begins this next chapter by speaking of Israel's need for the gospel and his heart for them to forsake their own righteousness and receive God's through faith in Jesus. Paul prayed and interceded for the people of Israel and we too can intercede and pray for others to repent and come to Jesus.

Romans 10:2 *For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.*

The legalistic Jews were zealous for the things of God but pursued Him the wrong way. They thought their own holiness would earn them right standing with God but ours is not good enough (Is 64:6). Having zeal is good when it is in the right thing (Gal 4:18) and the Jews had a zeal but it was in the law (Acts 21:20).

Romans 10:3 *For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.*

The Greek word for ignorant is *agnoeō* and means to not understand. The law is good (Rm 7:12) but the Jews had a legalistic interpretation of the law and did not understand its true intent.

There are two types of righteousness; God's which is perfect and then our own. The Pharisees of Jesus' day sought to pursue their own righteousness and were the only people He rebuked. Religion, which is man's attempt to please God is the worst sin of all.

Romans 10:4 *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

Any believer who still thinks they are under the law has not read this verse. Anyone who believes on Jesus, is not under the law but under grace. The law is necessary for a non-believer and they are still under the law but once a person comes to Christ which was the point of the Law (Gal 3:24), they no longer are under it because the law has served its purpose (Gal 3:19).

The law was never given for us to be justified by but now that we are justified because of Christ, we have been empowered to keep the requirements of the law.

Romans 10:5 *For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "the man who does those things shall live by them."*

This is a quotation from Leviticus 18:5.

The Old Covenant law that was handed to Moses was a conditional covenant based off behavior. If you do good, you got good and it was based off man's performance. The covenant of grace is not based off man's performance but is a covenant based off Jesus' performance, not our own. The New Covenant grace is not a system that requires you do good then get good. It is a system that says; you get good because He is good and it is a covenant of rest.

Man under the law is in a constant state of working and doing; similar to that of a slave. Man under the New Covenant grace is in a state of rest because it is based off Jesus' work not our own; similar to that of a son. We cease from all work when we enter into Jesus finished works (Heb 4:10).

Romans 10:6 *But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "do not say in your heart, 'who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down from above)*

Jesus rose from the dead having fulfilled the law for us and lived the law perfectly on our behalf in word, thought, and deed (Mt 3:17). The foundation to the Christian life is to believe that Christ rose from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father (Rom 10:9-10, Mark 16:19). If a person does not believe Jesus rose from the dead; it is saying that He did not fulfill His purpose on our behalf and defeat sin. Jesus raising from the dead proves that sin is defeated and we do not have to earn our way to God because Jesus earned access to the Father for us (Eph 2:18).

Romans 10:7 or, " 'who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

Jesus went to hell for us to pay a ransom for our sin (Eph 1:7). If we believe we have to work to be right with God and offer our own holiness to God, it is like saying He never went to hell for us. Anyone who believes they have to earn right standing with God is actually makes Jesus of no effect (Gal 5:2) and it is as if Christ died for nothing (Gal 2:21).

Romans 10:8 *But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):*

Believing in Jesus finished works verses our own is easy. Paul is saying how man will be in a constant state of doing if he trusts his own holiness but simply put faith in Jesus is rest. The New Covenant is a covenant of rest. Psalm chapter twenty-three is picture of the New Covenant.

Romans 10:6-8 is taken from Deuteronomy 30:11-14 and is saying Jesus did all the work, now are we can believe and respond.

Romans 10:9 *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

This is the way to salvation and it is the easiest thing anyone could do. God did not want it to be hard for man to enter into relationship with Him so we just believe that Jesus went to hell on our behalf and whatever we believe we will confess (Luke 6:45). Once we confess Jesus as Lord our sin is completely destroyed, the old man is dead, and we can have relationship with God without any barrier or inferiority.

The power of confession is the lifestyle of a believer. The way we went from the kingdom of darkness to kingdom of light was through our words (Col 1:13). The greatest miracle of all took place through confession.

Romans 10:10 *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Paul is stating the simplicity of having right standing with God is not adhering to all these rules and regulations but comes down to believing Christ paid it all, you pay nothing and confession is made with the mouth. Justification through Christ seems too easy to a religious person because they base their works off how God should treat them but no man should want to base their relationship with God off their own holiness because we may be better than our coworker but compared to Jesus, we fall extremely short of Gods standard of holiness (Ps 22:3).

This is the gospel or good news. Jesus paid it all, you just receive.

Romans 10:11 *For the Scripture says, " whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."*

Anyone who puts faith in Jesus' finished works will not be rejected by God. A person who trusts in themselves will not be sent to hell because God does not send anyone to hell. Man in their free will, chooses the path they want to go and if they believe they do not need Jesus they will be rejected by God because He cannot accept our own goodness.

Anyone who thinks they are good enough apart from Jesus does not know what the law says (Gal 4:21). If you break even one point of the law you break the entire law (James 2:10, Gal 3:10).

Romans 10:12 *For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.*

God is no receptor of persons (Acts 10:34, Gal 2:6, Rom 2:11). Salvation is for the sinner and since all have sinned, He offers it to all. In context, Paul is saying that Israels need for righteousness is the same as the Gentile need and it is easy to receive.

The children of Israel had come out of slavery to the Egyptians after 400 years when God set them free. Their entire life was consumed with slavery and doing. These people did not know how to live without rules and regulations and only knew how to follow guidelines. God wanted to bless them but they were the ones that told God, "We will do"! Essentially, telling God they were well able to perform in their own ability and serve Him. They were deceived, so God gave the law. This has not changed today. Believers have been set free from striving and performing but many still place themselves in a performance-based mentality with God and that is why many believers are tired and not seeing results. Anytime a believer says they will do, they have fallen from Grace and have removed themselves from God's ability into their own (Gal 5:4).

Romans 10:13 *For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

Christianity is simple. Not only will the person who calls on the name of the Lord be granted eternity with God but this word saved in Greek is sozo and means to heal, make whole, deliver, save, and prosper. It is an all-inclusive word that means the moment we called upon Jesus we are immediately delivered, healed, and preserved. We do not get healed the more we beg God to heal

us. We are healed the moment we receive Jesus, we just have to draw on the healing power already inside of us into our flesh. Its already there.

Romans 10:14 *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?*

When Jesus rose from the dead, He spent forty days with His disciples and commissioned the Church to go out and preach the gospel (Mark 16:18-20). As good as everything that Paul had just wrote in this chapter is, what good is this news that Jesus paid it all if no one ever hears it? God is not preaching the gospel today. He commissioned His church to do it and most of what is being preached today is not the gospel.

Many churches today are preaching law and have their pool pits staked at Mount Sinai. We need to get those pool pits and move them to Mount Zion and preach the gospel!

We first hear the word of truth which is the gospel, then we believe and are sealed (Eph 1:13). This is the process into salvation and is the simplicity of not being under a system that demands effort or work.

Romans 10:15 *And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "how beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

A vital piece of armor that Paul list in Ephesians 6:15 is our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. A Roman soldiers' shoes of Paul's day had large iron cleats at the bottom to keep them stable and secure during battle. Paul uses this piece of armor as an imagery to show our relationship with God is only stable and secure through the gospel of Jesus finished works. These shoes also helped them from retreating backwards and to advance forward. The Gospel is what keeps us from going back into legalism.

Romans 10:16 *But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?"*

This is a quotation from Isaiah 53:1.

Isaiah prophesied the coming of Jesus and he was rejected. Not all received the message Isaiah came to preach. Likewise, not all will receive the message of Christ but that should not stop us from preaching the good news.

Romans 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

When the gospel is preached, faith is in the word to believe in Jesus' finished works. For a believer faith does not come by begging God for more or even seeing miracles. Faith comes by hearing and hearing and hearing. The woman with the issue of blood heard about Jesus and faith rose up for her to go get her healing (Mark 5:27). What are we hearing?

Romans 10:18 *But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."*

This is a quotation taken from Psalm 19:4.

Paul is going to refer to four Old Testament scriptures to discuss the Gentile acceptance by God in the following scriptures.

Romans 10:19 *But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation."*

This is a quotation taken from Deuteronomy 32:21 and is speaking of God provoking the Jewish nation to jealousy by accepting the Gentiles. It should have made the Jews jealous to see that God was extending mercy and favor to a nation outside the covenant.

Romans 10:20 *But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for me."*

This is a quotation from Isaiah 65:1 and the ones who were not seeking God is referring to the Gentiles. Paul is making a point that if God would accept the Gentiles who were not zealous for the things of God and not adhering to all these rules and regulations then why would it be a prerequisite for salvation for the Jews?

The Gentiles were not in pursuit of God but the Jews were. They had a zeal but it was without knowledge.

Romans 10:21 *But to Israel he says: "all day long I have stretched out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people."*

This is a quotation from Is 65:2. The Gentiles were accepted by God apart from following rules and regulation. This should have been an indication to the Jews that it is not based off man's performance to enter into relationship with God.