

Clarifying Salvation
Romans 10:5 – 13
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Do you have assurance before God that you will be saved from His coming wrath?

In this passage, Paul wants to get *really clear* with us about the message of salvation: The only assurance of salvation for everyone is through faith in Jesus.

1. THE PERILS OF PERFORMANCE (vv. 5 – 7)

A. God's people have *never* merited blessing by performance.

Deut 9:4-5 ⁴ “Do not say in your heart, after the LORD your God has thrust them out before you, ‘It is because of my righteousness that the LORD has brought me in to possess this land,’ whereas it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out before you. ⁵ Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the LORD your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Deut. 30:1 “And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you,”

Deut. 29:3-4 ³ the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, and those great wonders. ⁴ But to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear.

Deut 30:6 ⁶ And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Rom 2:26-29 ²⁸ For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God,

Deut 30:11-14 ¹¹ “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹⁴ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

Romans 10:5-7 ⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. ⁶ But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring

Christ down)⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

B. Seeking life through performance only brings death.

Romans 3:20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Romans 7:10 “The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me.”

2. THE PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL (vv. 8 – 13)

A. Announcement (v. 8)

Everything that is necessary for salvation has already been done!

B. Assurance (vv. 9 – 11)

God’s gracious means for salvation: Jesus + nothing

Man’s only response: Faith + nothing

Faith: Trusting in the finished work of Jesus as one’s only hope of life and salvation.

“Saving faith is not mere intellectual agreement but deep inward trust in Christ at the core of one’s being.” – Thomas Schreiner

C. Audience (vv. 12 – 13)

i. No matter who you are

ii. No matter what you’ve done

Sinners, let me address you with words of life; Jesus wants nothing from you, nothing whatsoever, nothing done, nothing felt; he gives both work and feeling. Ragged, penniless, just as you are, lost, forsaken, desolate, with no good feelings, and no good hopes, Jesus still comes to you, and in these words of pity he addresses you, “him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out.” . . . “him that cometh to me” . . . the man may have been guilty of an atrocious sin, but if he comes to Christ he shall not be cast out. I cannot tell what kind of persons may have come into this hall tonight; but if burglars, murderers, and dynamite-men were here, I would still bid them come to Christ, for he will not cast them out. no limit is set to the extent of sin: any “him” in all the world—any blaspheming, devilish “him” that comes to Christ shall be welcomed. I use strong words that I may open the gate of mercy. Any “him” that comes to Christ—though he come from slum or taproom, betting-ring or gambling-hall, prison or brothel—Jesus will in no wise cast out. – Charles Spurgeon

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