

**Salt Church**

**Romans 10:1-13**

**“Life and Death”**

**February 12, 2026**

**The Greatest Book Ever Written**

**David and Cindy (June 6-13)**

**Romans 9:30-33 (NLT)**

*30 What does all this mean? Even though the Gentiles were not trying to follow God’s standards, they were made right with God. And it was by faith that this took place.<sup>31</sup> But the people of Israel, who tried so hard to get right with God by keeping the law, never succeeded. <sup>32</sup> Why not? Because they were trying to get right with God by keeping the law instead of by trusting in him. They stumbled over the great rock in their path. <sup>33</sup> God warned them of this in the Scriptures when he said,*

*“I am placing a stone in Jerusalem that makes people stumble, a rock that makes them fall. But anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.”*

- **Our conclusion was simply this:**

- Righteousness is credited by God through faith
- Our faith is a gift of God by His grace

- So, it is by grace alone, through faith alone, that we are saved.
- And who is our faith in?
  - **Christ alone.**
- The Jews (not all of them) have rejected Christ because they would rather try to work for their salvation by trying to keep the law.
  - Thus, Jesus is the stumbling stone, the foundational rock of our faith that has become the very one who they have rejected.

### **Romans 10:1-13 (NLT)**

***10 Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved.***

- How many of us in this room have loved ones that have rejected Christ or worse claim Christ but show absolutely no evidence that they know Him as Lord and savior.
  - This is the grief that Paul feels for his people the Jews.

***2 I know what enthusiasm they have for God, but it is misdirected zeal.***

- What is Paul saying?
  - They are religious people.

***3 For they don't understand God's way of making people right with himself.***

- Their theology is wrong.
- **Correct theology is very important.**
  - What's wrong with their theology?

***Refusing to accept God's way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God by trying to keep the law.***

- The Jews are determined to hold on to their religion.
- God determines how He will be worshiped.
- God determines what is acceptable, not man.

***4 For Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given.***

- **Why was the law given?**
  - To show us God's extremely high standard.
    - To show us God unwavering intolerance of sin.
      - To help us understand our need for a savior.

***As a result, all who believe in him are made right with God.***

- We have spent the better part of the last two months working our way through Roman's processing what that means.
- ***Rather than belaboring the point allow me to summarize what the Apostle Paul is saying through the Holy Spirit:***
  - The nation of Israel has a **form of zeal for God through religion but it is wrong.**
  - They are ignorant of God's high standard for righteousness in that they believe that they can achieve it through religious sacrifice and the keeping of sacred practices.
  - For, they know that the Messiah was described completely in the Old Testament scriptures.
  - They clearly saw Jesus' ministry on earth.
  - They knew He met all of the requirements of the Messiah and they rejected Him because He would not conform to their standard of righteousness.
    - They preferred the 613 laws to the righteousness of Jesus

- They rejected His offer of grace and mercy through His sacrifice on the cross.

### What have we learned?

- Religion cannot save you.

Romans 10:5

***5 For Moses writes that the law's way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands.***

- Deuteronomy 27:26 ***'Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them.'***

### Now there is a shift in Paul's argument:

- He is going to leave the idea that anyone could ever achieve salvation, forgiveness, and righteousness through obedience to the 613 laws and move towards faith in Jesus Christ.
- This is what we call justification by faith alone

***6 But faith's way of getting right with God says, "Don't say in your heart, 'Who will go up to heaven?' (to bring Christ down to earth).***

- In the Jewish mind the question is, what do I have to do?
  - Who is going to go into Heaven and bring the Messiah down to earth?

***Whose idea was it that Jesus would leave Heaven and come down to us?***

**John 6:38-40 (God the Father)**

***38 For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. 39 And this is the will of God,***

*that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. 40 For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day."*

- So, we conclude from Jesus that it was the Father's idea to send Jesus to earth.
  - This is a very deep thought!
    - In the sovereignty of God, HE planned Jesus' birth.
    - He chose the virgin Mary.
    - He chose Joseph to be Jesus' stepfather
    - He chose Jesus' name
    - He chose their family line to be descendants of King David.
    - He chose Bethlehem
    - He chose Nazareth
    - He chose the 12 including Judas
    - He planned every step of Jesus' ministry along with every word spoken.
    - He planned every miracle.
    - He planned every recorded word.
      - But here is where it gets difficult:
        - He planned Jesus' death
        - He planned it according to the prophecy contained in Isaiah and Psalms 22.
        - He planned His sons own murder.
        - He planned the beating.
        - He planned the cross.

- He also planned His final words before His death.
- He planned the salvation of the thief on the cross.
- He planned His decent into Hades (the place of the dead)
  - He planned the words that He preached to those in torment and those in Paradise.
- He planned His resurrection.
- He planned His 40 days return to earth.
- He planned Jesus' return to His throne in Heaven.

So, when Paul says, “Who will go up to Heaven?” he is reminding them that there is no need for Jesus has already accomplished it.

**Paul continues:**

*7 And don't say, 'Who will go down to the place of the dead?' (to bring Christ back to life again)."*

**There is no need to think this way because we already know who raised Jesus from the dead:**

**Acts 2:22-24**

*22 "People of Israel, listen! God (The Father) publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. 23 But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when*

*Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him.<sup>24</sup> But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip.*

### **Why does Paul formulate his argument this way?**

- We like the Jews want to know what we must do in order to achieve righteousness.
- Paul says, **you didn't go to Heaven and bring Him down** to humanity that was God the Fathers idea.
- You didn't **go into the depths and bring Him back** to life **that was the power of God the Father** that proves that He accepted the sacrifice of Hos Son.
  - ***In other words, you don't work for this!***
  - Paul will further his argument by pointing to the Old Testament scriptures which always pointed to faith as the reason that righteousness was credited to man.

***<sup>8</sup> In fact, it says,***

***“The message is very close at hand;  
it is on your lips and in your heart.”***

***And that message is the very message about faith that we preach:***

***Paul is quoting Moses***

**Listen to Moses in Deuteronomy 30:11-14**

***<sup>11</sup> “This command I am giving you today is not too difficult for you, and it is not beyond your reach. <sup>12</sup> It is not kept in heaven, so distant that you must ask, ‘Who will go up to heaven and***

*bring it down so we can hear it and obey?’<sup>13</sup> It is not kept beyond the sea, so far away that you must ask, ‘Who will cross the sea to bring it to us so we can hear it and obey?’<sup>14</sup> No, the message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart so that you can obey it.*

### **Sound familiar?**

- **Even when** Moses gave the Law to God’s people he pointed to faith as the only possible way to achieve righteousness.
- It was in this faith that Gods people would also find the desire to worship God in its greatest form. (Obedience)
  - **What am I trying to say?**
    - **Obedience is the fruit of faith.**
      - Faith in what Pastor?
        - Look at verse 9

***<sup>9</sup>If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.***

- In all the complexity of Romans, can it get any easier than that?

***<sup>10</sup>For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.***

- **It was by faith that Abraham was credited with righteousness.**
  - Keep in mind that was before the Law of Moses was written.
  - Abraham believed in his heart.
  - He openly declared his faith.

- He trusted God even though he never saw all the promises that God made to him come true.
  - And he was saved.

(Side notes)

- **Matthew 12:34** *Jesus says that the overflow of a man's heart will spill out of his mouth.*
  - If you ever want to know **what a man truly believes** just **listen to what he has to say**, eventually it will come out.
- **Paul said**, ***"<sup>10</sup> For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God,"*** the word "**believing**" comes from the Greek word "**pistou**" which is often translated "**trust.**"
  - My point is simply this, ***it is more than a "I believe in bigfoot" belief.***
    - ***This is life changing, life altering faith.***
      - A faith that is the difference between ***"Life and Death"***

***<sup>11</sup> As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced."***

***Paul is quoting Isaiah***

**Isaiah 28:16**

**Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken."**

- ***What is Paul doing?***

- He is appealing to the Jewish readers.
- He is pointing to the Law of Moses and saying, “this was God’s plan all along.”
- He is pointing to the great Jewish prophet (Isaiah) **who was pointing to the coming of Jesus** their long awaited Messiah

**Paul continues:**

***12 Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him.***

Why would Paul draw our attention to the “Jew and Gentile” comparison?

- By now we are well versed in the covenant promises that God has made with the Jewish people.
  - Promises that you and I know **God will keep.**
    - But **when it comes to faith and salvation, the Jew and the Gentile are the same before the Lord** who gives generously to all who call on Him.

We close today where we will pick up next week should the Lord allow.

***13 For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”***

- I can think of no greater example of this verse in action than the salvation of the thief on the cross.

**Luke 23:39-43**

***39 One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!”***

*40 But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? 41 We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” 42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”*

*43 And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”*

**The thief on the cross called upon the name of Jesus**

- He confessed with his mouth that Jesus is Lord when he called Him Lord.
- He believed in his heart when asked Jesus to remember him when He comes into His Kingdom.
  - Both Jesus and that man entered Paradise that very day.

*We are presented with the same decision today.*

- The difference between us and the thief on the cross is that we do not know when we will take our last breath here on earth.
  - Meaning he knew he only had hours.
- Most of us in this room will have days, months, and years.
  - What would Paul and Moses say to us?

*We close with that thought in mind.*

- We close with the Holy Spirit filled words of Moses.
- Words that Paul has been quoting from all morning.

**I want you to close your eyes and imagine Moses speaking to you directly.**

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

***<sup>15</sup> “Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster.***

***<sup>16</sup> For I command you this day to love the Lord your God and to keep his commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in his ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy.***

***<sup>17</sup> “But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen, and if you are drawn away to serve and worship other gods, <sup>18</sup> then I warn you now that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live a long, good life in the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy.***

***<sup>19</sup> “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! <sup>20</sup> You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the Lord, you will live long in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”***

**Close in prayer**