

95. The Book of Romans 10:14-18

Paul's Epistle to the Romans

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier

(7-16-25)

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Tonight, we find ourselves in Romans 10 where Paul is trying to reason with his Jewish countrymen as to why the gospel of grace (New Covenant) is far superior to the works of the Law (Old Covenant) as a way of approaching God and being made righteous in His eyes—

Romans 10:5–10 (NLT)

⁵ For Moses writes that the law's way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands. 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). ⁷ And don't say, 'Who will go down to the place of the dead?' (to bring Christ back to life again)." ⁸ 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: ⁹ If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ 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.

As we have already said, to **"believe in your heart"** is more than just intellectual agreement with the facts—that Jesus is God who died on the cross and rose from the dead (even demons believe that to be true). It's believing to the point of commitment—it's a confession based on your *personal* conviction and willingness to submit to that truth, repent of your sins, and bow to Jesus as your Savior and Lord, trusting in Him for salvation.

"Confessing with the mouth" isn't a public confession of faith necessary to attain salvation—but the *fruit* of salvation.

In other words, when a person is truly saved, they're going to want to tell others about Jesus—no unbeliever (no matter how religious they are) is going to want to go around telling people about Jesus (*"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks"*).

Paul includes this to give people something *tangible* as evidence of someone's salvation—as Jesus said, *"You will know them by their fruits."*

Romans 10:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ For the Scripture says, **"Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."**

Here Paul quotes from Isaiah 28:16 to emphasize that whoever believes on Jesus while on earth (even though they may be ridiculed and shamed by the people of this world)—will not be put to shame when they stand before Jesus in heaven.

Matthew 10:32–33 (NKJV)

³² "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

The word “**Whoever**” (verse 11) forms a link to what follows, namely, that God’s glorious salvation is for all—Gentiles as well as Jews.

Romans 10:12 (NKJV)

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

In Romans 3:23 we learned that there is no difference between Jew and Gentile as far as the need for salvation is concerned—for all are sinners.

Now we learn that there is no distinction as far as the availability of salvation is concerned—because Jesus died for all. Paul is telling us that the Lord is not an *exclusive* God (to the Jews only) but is Lord over all mankind—that He is rich in grace and mercy “**to all who call upon Him.**”

Romans 10:13 (NKJV)

¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Joel 2:32 is quoted here by Paul to prove the *universality* of the Gospel.

One author said, “One could scarcely wish for a simpler statement of the way of salvation than is found in these words: ‘Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

I completely reject the Calvinist doctrine of ‘*limited atonement*’—or in other words that Jesus only died and shed His blood for a small group of individuals known as the ‘elect.’

1 John 2:2 (NKJV)

² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the [sins of the] whole world.

I believe that what John is saying is that Jesus’ death on the cross didn’t just satisfy God’s righteousness for the ‘elect’—but for every person who would ever live! Now, by saying that I’m not saying that every person in the world is automatically saved (universalism)—I’m saying that every person in the world *can* be saved.

The payment has been made for all mankind, and all anyone has to do to go to heaven is to *believe* in Jesus Christ and *receive* God’s gift of eternal life by faith (John 1:12).

This goes against the Calvinist doctrine of “Limited Atonement” (the “L” in their acronym ‘TULIP’). Calvinists interpret 1 John 2:2 this way—“*He Himself is the propitiation for our sins (the apostles), and not for ours only but also for the whole world of the elect.*”

They do the same thing with other verses that universally call all men and women to Christ to be saved and yet interpret those verses to only be speaking about the elect—

John 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world [of the elect] that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever [of the elect] believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 12:32 (NKJV)

³² And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself [all different peoples from all over the world that God has elected to salvation].”

I categorically disagree with and reject those interpretations—as well as the whole idea of ‘*limited atonement*’ (and with it the whole ‘TULIP’ acronym in general). I believe that when Jesus said, “*If I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all peoples to Myself.*” (John 12:32)—He meant all people!

I believe that Jesus was clearly saying that after His crucifixion He would (thru the Holy Spirit) draw all peoples to Himself—or in other words that salvation would be available to everyone on planet earth. That anyone who came to Him for salvation He would accept and not turn away!

Pastor Chuck Smith—

“Notice the “whoever’s” here. Whoever believes on Him. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. The door is open to all men.

I do not subscribe to the Calvinistic theology that says that there is limited atonement. That Christ only died for those that would believe. I believe that Christ died for the sins of the world. And I believe that the door is open for all men to come. And that whoever believes in Him will be saved. I also believe that believing in Him is a matter of choice. That a person chooses to believe in Jesus Christ or he chooses not to believe in Jesus Christ. And I believe that it is a choice that is made in one’s heart and not an intellectual choice.

I do not believe that anybody has ever rejected Jesus Christ on purely intellectual grounds. They may declare that they have intellectual difficulties. But that is just their excuse for not believing. The real reason for their not believing is that they don’t want to submit to the Lordship of Jesus because of the requirements that He makes of us. To live after the spirit and not to live after the flesh. And because they want to live after the flesh because their hearts are evil, they choose not to believe in Jesus.”

Romans 10:11-13 (NKJV)

¹¹ **For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”** ¹² **For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.** ¹³ **For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”**

“The name of the Lord” stands for the ‘*Lord Himself and all that He is.*’

In the Jewish way of thinking, the name of a person represented all that they were in the sense of their nature and character.

John 16:23 (NKJV)

²³ And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

To ask for something in Jesus’ name means—I’m asking for things that are consistent with His character. It means, I’m standing in His place and asking for what He would have asked for if He was here physically on the earth—especially when it comes to the work of God’s Kingdom—

“Father, I’m asking this on behalf of Jesus because I know He would have wanted this. I know this because it is consistent with His character and what He was most passionate about during His earthly ministry (His Father’s glory and the salvation of lost sinners—Luke 19:10).”

We all know that it was the heart of Jesus to see all come to Him for salvation—

1 Timothy 2:3–4 (NKJV)

³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Romans 10:14–15 (NKJV)

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? 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!”*

Romans 10:15 is a quote from Isaiah 52:7 and Nahum 1:15.

One historian said—

“The quotes from Isaiah and Nahum refers to those bringing good news to the Jews in Assyrian captivity about their release.

The Nahum reference had to do with the destruction of the Assyrian Empire, the hated enemies of the Jews. Nineveh was their key city, a wicked city to which God had sent Jonah some 150 years before Nahum wrote. God had patiently dealt with Nineveh, but now His judgment was going to fall. It was this “good news” that the messenger brought to the Jews, and this is what made his feet so beautiful.”

But here in Romans 10:15, Paul is applying these quotes to the good news of the gospel in his day (and into our day as well) declaring the release of those being held captive by the devil for anyone who would believe and receive God’s good news (gospel).

Romans 10:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, *“Lord, who has believed our report?”*

Even though salvation is such good news and it’s free—many people refuse to believe.

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

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

James 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

1 Peter 1:23–25 (NKJV)

²³ having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ²⁴ because *“All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, ²⁵ But the word of the Lord endures forever.”* Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

One pastor made this observation—

“There is a mistaken notion that we often have concerning loved ones. If they just see a true miracle, then they would, no doubt, believe. And there is that tendency for us to want to see some kind of supernatural evidence to make people believers—but faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Miracles do not create saving faith—only the Word of God creates saving faith.”

Luke 16:19–31 (NKJV)

¹⁹ “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹ desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² So it was that

the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.²⁴ "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.'²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'²⁷ "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house,²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'²⁹ Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets [the Word of God]; let them hear them.'³⁰ And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'³¹ But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' "

One author commented on this passage out of Luke 16—

"The rich man didn't have any faith in the power of the Word of God to save his brothers but said a miracle would certainly convert them, especially something as spectacular as someone coming back from the dead.

It's interesting that Jesus did raise someone from the dead, and his name happened to be Lazarus (not the same Lazarus as here in Luke 16). Did the Jewish leaders believe? No.

Jesus Himself rose from the dead—do people believe because of it? Some, but not many.

A miracle can bring faith where there is a willingness to hear the truth and believe.

A miracle will strengthen faith where it already exists. But a miracle will never force someone to believe who is unwilling and hardhearted.

The idea that we need miracles today to effectively reach the lost, that the simple proclamation of the gospel won't do it is put to rest right here. 'Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.'"

John 10:41–42 (NKJV)

⁴¹ Then many came to Him and said, "John performed no sign [miracle], but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true." ⁴² And many believed in Him there.

Romans 10:18 (NKJV)

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."**

Someone might insist that many Jews were not given the opportunity to hear the gospel message—which prompted Paul to ask rhetorically, **"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.'"—in other words, "Yes, all Jews have heard as well as all mankind"—but how?

Well, the Jewish people started with Abraham—about whom Paul said in Galatians 3:

Galatians 3:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham...

This a rather shocking statement by Paul that Abraham knew the gospel—but how? Some believe it was when God brought him outside (Genesis 15) and said in v.5, *"Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them."*

There are those who say that God wasn't telling Abram to try to literally count the stars—He was telling Abram to '*set them in order*.' Or in other words God was telling him to read the *order* of the constellations for they tell the story of redemption—i.e., 'the gospel'.

We read in Psalm 19:1, "*The heavens declare the glory of God*"—and the greatest way God is glorified is through the work of redemption. And it could be that God took Abram outside and showed him these constellations and used them to preach the gospel to him.

I believe that Abram then realized what God meant when He promised him so many descendants, they wouldn't be able to be numbered—and how that in Him (Abram's descendant, Messiah Jesus) all the families of the earth would be blessed. (Genesis 12:3)

So, Abraham had the gospel preached to him, he understood the story of redemption—something we know for sure when he 'offered up' Isaac on top of Mt. Moriah:

Genesis 22:9–14 (NKJV)

⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." ¹² And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me." ¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind *him* was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide [Jehovah-Jireh]; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided."

This tells me that Abraham knew he was acting out prophecy—the prophecy of God sending His Only Begotten Son who would be the Lamb (Genesis 22:8) who would die on that very mount (where God told him to offer Isaac—Mt. Moriah/Calvary) for the sins of the world—the Gospel!

So, God preached the Gospel to Abraham—but is it reasonable to think He used the stars to do it?

Let's turn to Genesis 1 and look at the 4th day of creation—

Genesis 1:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years..."

So, Genesis 1:14 tells us that God created the sun, moon, and stars to mark the passing of time in the sense of days and months and seasons of the year—but in verse 14 God said they would also be for "signs".

The Hebrew word for "signs" is *oth*, meaning "*beacons*" or "*signals*" and suggests that the stars especially were placed in the heavens by God to serve as beacons to guide the people of earth in a particular direction. Of course, it begs the question—"What direction?" And for that matter what did God want to signal or announce to the inhabitants of the earth through the stars?

Well, many believe the stars exist as *astrological* signs to announce important events or simply to predict a person's future.

However, *astrology* is an occult, pagan practice and all such forms of divination and fortunetelling are strictly forbidden in Scripture (Deuteronomy 18:10–12; Isaiah 7:12–14).

No, what we're talking about is the Mazzaroth.

We know that Satan is a counterfeiter of God's truth and so many see the zodiac as a satanic counterfeit of the Hebrew '*Mazzaroth*.'

What is the Mazzaroth? Well, the precise meaning of the word is uncertain but its context from Scripture has something to do with the constellations—

Job 38:31-32 (NKJV)

³¹ "Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion? ³² Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs?

There are many who believe that the stars, and in particular the *constellations*, were placed in the heavens by God to point to and announce to the people of earth the gospel of His Son.

So, when we say that God preached the Gospel to Abraham—many believe it was through the Mazzaroth, which some have called the '*gospel in the stars*'.

Dr. D. James Kennedy writes on this subject using Genesis 1:14 where God said He made the stars "*for signs*" as a launching off point.

I won't read you the entire article but let me whet your appetite to study this on your own—

The Mazzaroth (zodiac) starts with '**Virgo**' a picture of a woman—

Kennedy says,

"You can look at the stars in Virgo until you are green in the face, and they would never look like a woman! But the picture which has gone with them down through the ages in every nation in the world is a picture of a woman. This woman is clearly identified as a virgin. Virgo means "virgin" in Latin, Hebrew, Greek and Arabic. So, the first thing we see is the emphasis upon the virginity of this woman."

The next sign is '**Coma**'

*"Coma means "the desired" or "the longed for one." It is a picture of a woman with a child in her lap. The book of Haggai tells us, "**The desire of all nations shall come**" (Haggai 2:7). Jesus Christ is the Desire of all nations who was to come."*

The fourth sign is '**Crux**'

Kennedy says,

"Crux, [is] the Southern Cross. This is one constellation which looks like that for which it is named, because it consists of four stars placed very clearly in the shape of a cross, as if God did not want us to miss it. In Hebrew it is called Adom which means "cutting off." Christ is that One who was cut off out of the land of the living for our sins."

The last sign is '**Leo**'

Kennedy—

“Finally, we come to Leo the Lion—a picture of Christ who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, coming again. He is coming this time not in humiliation but in great power and glory. The Lion’s claws are right over Hydra, the serpent, who He is about to finally and totally destroy.”

Dr. Kennedy finishes by saying,

“The art gallery of God painted in the sky is a great and glorious picture. All ancient traditions, all ancient mythologies, all pagan religions (which some skeptics say Christianity has adopted and fashioned into the Christian religion), are all nothing more than corruptions of the ancient [gospel] given by God to Adam and written in the celestial sky for all the world to see.

How glorious it is that whether we talk about the special revelation God has given to us in His Word, or the general revelation which He has given to us in nature, the story is always the same: the seed of the woman will destroy the seed of the serpent. At last, there came that One who was born of a woman, who came to die and rise again that we might live forever.

I hope that as you go out on a given evening and look up at the glories of the starry skies, you will be more impressed than ever with the greatness and wonder of our God and the majesty of His grace and mercy.”

I sincerely doubt you’ll ever read the first 4 verses of Psalm 19 the same ever again!

Psalm 19:1–4 (NLT)

¹ The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. ² Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. ³ They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. ⁴ Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world...

Romans 10:18 (NKJV)

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.*”**

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