

94. The Book of Romans 10:9-10

Paul's Epistle to the Romans

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(7-9-25)

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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 10:5–9 (NKJV)

⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, *"The man who does those things shall live by them."* 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) ⁷ or, *" 'Who will descend into the abyss?'"* (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 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): 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.

The Greek word translated '**confess**' carries with it the idea of '*agreeing with.*'

Which means that when we confess the **Lord Jesus**, we are agreeing with God in what He has said about Jesus and with what Jesus said about Himself. It means that we believe that Jesus is God, the Lord of all, Savior of the world, who died on the cross for our sins, rose from the dead, and who alone can provide us access to the Father and a place in heaven someday.

But understand, this is not a *general* confession—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 Lord, trusting in Him for salvation.

One of the essential doctrines that a person must believe if they're going to be forgiven for their sins and allowed entrance into heaven is that—Jesus is Almighty God in human form:

John 8:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."

You'll notice that the word "**He**" in verse 24 is in italics, which means it's not there in the Greek but was added by the translators in an effort to help clarify what Jesus was saying.

What Jesus really said was, **"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins** [go to hell]... **if you do not believe that I am** [Jehovah God']—**you will die in your sins."**

This goes '*hand in hand*' with another biblical proclamation concerning Jesus Christ—that He is not only Almighty God in human form—but that He is also the **Lord** of all! Salvation is linked to the doctrine that Jesus Christ is God Almighty and Lord of all!

The reason these go ‘*hand in hand*’ is because—as God He *created* all things, and therefore He has the right to *control* all things as sovereign Lord (Master) of His creation! You can’t separate the two, because they are inextricably linked together to Who He is as God!

Jesus is God (that’s who He is)—but salvation only comes to those who *believe* He is God and then *receive* Him as the God and Master (Lord) of their lives—

John 1:12 (NKJV)

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

Believing in Jesus is essential if a person is going to be saved—but receiving Him as your Lord is where you make the commitment to Him that actually saves you!

Folks, this is where faith as mere head-knowledge becomes saving faith—a commitment rooted in the heart!

Notice Paul says that we must believe in our **heart** to be saved—not merely with our **minds**.

Head-knowledge is where salvation starts (with hearing or reading about the gospel)—but if that truth isn’t brought into your heart (where saving faith becomes a reality), it remains head-knowledge and that won’t save anyone.

Spurgeon said—

“The faith that saves is not believing certain truths, nor even believing that Jesus is a Savior; but it is resting on him, depending on him, leaning with all your weight on Christ as the foundation of your hope...This is the faith which saves the soul.”

It’s important for the people we are witnessing to that they understand that to be saved they have to believe in Jesus Christ as Almighty God—that’s vital. But what we must also make sure they understand is that—not all faith is saving faith!

In his epistle, James tells us that even the devil and his demons *believe* that Jesus Christ is God Almighty, the Great I AM in human form—but that’s not going to keep them from hell.

❖ Saving faith is not just *believing the facts* about Jesus Christ (Who He is and what He did)—to be saved a person must believe to the point of commitment.

When you were dating your future spouse and decided to get married—you didn’t enter into marriage until you made vows to each other on your wedding day—those vows were the commitment you were making to one another.

It was the *commitment* that put you into the marriage covenant and allowed you to become one with each other in the eyes of God. The same was true with your relationship with Jesus *before* you were saved.

Many of you (like me) grew up believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God Who died for your sins and rose from the dead—and maybe you even loved Him in your own way having grown up in church like I did.

But it wasn't until you made a commitment to Him by receiving Him into your heart as your Savior, pledging to love Him as the only God in your life that you believe in and worship—that you entered into the 'New Covenant' (which is really a marriage covenant) with Him.

It's the *commitment* that brings you into the marriage covenant with Jesus making you one with Him and saving you because—only saving faith bows to Jesus as Lord God Almighty.

In the Old Testament, when you see the word "**LORD**" (all capitals) it is the name of God ('Yahweh') the Great "I AM." But when you see the word "**Lord**" it is the translation of the Hebrew word 'adoni'—which means '**master**' or '*the one who controls your life.*'

The problem with so many professing Christians today is that—they use the word '**Lord**' as a *name* for Jesus when it is really a *title* for the One who controls their life.

His name is Jesus—His title is Lord (the Master of your life).

Those who *call* Jesus Lord but don't *submit* to Him and obey Him as their Master are deceiving themselves—their 'faith' isn't genuine saving faith:

Luke 6:46 (NKJV)

⁴⁶ "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"

From there He goes on to talk about 2 kinds of faith found among professing Christians (churchgoers)—head-knowledge that produces no obedience to Him, and then saving faith rooted in the heart demonstrated by obedience to His word.

As one pastor and author said—

"There has to be a consistency between what I say and what I do. If I say Jesus is Lord then to be consistent, I have to be submitted to His will. I have to be obedient to His command. The faith that is of the heart is a faith that transforms the actions of our lives. If a person has confessed Jesus as Lord, but he is walking after the flesh. He is disobedient to the Word of God and the command of the Scriptures, then his confession that Jesus is Lord is an empty confession. It doesn't save. There has to be corresponding submission to the Lordship of Jesus."

John 10:27–28 (NKJV)

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

Hebrews 5:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. ⁹ And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

Spurgeon—

"We are convinced that a man is saved by faith alone—but we are also just as convinced that the kind of faith that saves a man in never really alone."

Listen, no one can be saved who doesn't call Jesus Lord—and no one can call Jesus Lord who has not relinquished control of their life to Him as their Master. **Now we have to be careful here** that we don't make *obedience* to the Lordship of Jesus a means of attaining salvation but rather seeing it as a fruit of salvation and truly knowing Him.

Author William MacDonald gives an important caveat on the subject—

“The question often arises, “Can a person be saved by accepting Jesus as Savior without also acknowledging Him as Lord?” The Bible gives no encouragement to anyone who believes with mental reservations: “I’ll take Jesus as my Savior but I don’t want to crown Him Lord of all.”

On the other hand, those who make submission to Jesus as Lord a *condition of salvation* face the problem, “To what degree must He be acknowledged as Lord?” Few Christians would claim to have made an absolute and complete surrender to Him in this way. When we present the gospel, we must maintain that *faith is the sole condition of justification*. But we must also remind sinners and saints constantly that Jesus Christ *is* Lord (Master) and should be acknowledged as such.”

A final thought—saving faith in part is accepting the truth that Jesus, if received, is now the Lord of my life—even if it takes years of growth and walking in the Spirit to finally realize that desire fully in my daily life.

Saving faith is in the *believing* and *receiving* of the truth—
not in obedience to that truth.

Let me say it again—our gospel presentations must include the idea that salvation is all about believing in Jesus and receiving Him as the Lord of our lives (the One who now owns us and has the right to control our lives—2 Corinthians 6:20).

I realize that full obedience to the will of God in any given area of life takes time to grow into as a child of God—so we must not make obedience to Jesus a condition for *attaining* salvation. All I’m saying is that a person must acknowledge their *willingness* to surrender their life to Jesus as their Lord/Master as part of the gospel presentation.

Otherwise, they are nothing more than *rebels* who want heaven someday, who mentally agree with the facts about Jesus—but who refuse to surrender their life to Him as their King here on earth.

That folks, is the ‘gospel’ of the devil—‘believe in Jesus, and live anyway you want.’

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV)

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

One author pointed out that the order of verse 9—“**If you confess and believe**” seems backwards.

I mean, don’t we believe *first*—and *then* confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord?

One pastor and author gives insight on this—

“The normal chronological order is that one believes first and then acknowledges his or her belief—but here what is to be both believed and confessed are connected to one another. In other words, Paul is saying that man needs to bring into agreement his confession and his life. The mouth and the heart should be in harmony, saying the same thing.”

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 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."*

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

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