

Pastor Clifford
January 10th, 2021

The Book of Hebrews: Chapter 10a

(Blue text is Hebrews)

Hebrews 10

19 "Therefore, brothers *and sisters*, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, *through His flesh,...*"

Ephesians 2:8,9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this *is* not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

How Does a Jew Attain Salvation?

The following is a quote from a Jewish Rabi:

Christianity maintains that all men are doomed to sin, and everyone will go to everlasting hell unless they accept Jesus as their savior. Judaism has always held that we do not need that sort of salvation, for we are not doomed or damned at birth. We are not doomed or fated to sin. Quite the contrary. The Torah says: "If you do good, won't there be special privilege? And if you do not do good, sin waits at the door. It lusts after you, but you can dominate it." (Genesis 4:7) In other words, you can do good, and if you do, things will be better for you. If you do not do good, sin wants to be partners with you. But you can control sin, you can

control your evil desires, and you can be good. So we have free will, and that is what Judaism has always believed, because that is what the Torah teaches. The Torah does not teach – or even mention – that we are “born in sin,” or that we are fated to sin. Just the opposite. We have the ability to choose. Which means that we can be good, or we can be evil. It’s up to us. And if we can be good, that means we can be righteous. I cannot understand how or why Christians like to say that no one can be righteous in the eyes of G-d. The Torah says otherwise. I often say to missionaries that if they choose to believe that all Gentiles are sinful, I would have to disagree, but I won’t bother to argue the point. It’s their own people, let them say what they want. But if they choose to say that all people, including Jews, are sinful and cannot be righteous, I have to strongly disagree, because the Torah says quite the opposite: “All your nation is righteous, they will inherit the earth eternally; the shoot that I have planted, the work of My hands, something to be proud of” (Isaiah 60:21). So we are righteous, and Hashem is proud of us. And it says, “Open the gates, so that the righteous nation that keeps the faith may enter” (Isaiah 26:2). We Children of Israel are righteous. For the Torah says so. Of course, we must uphold the Torah, or otherwise we might cease to be righteous. But as long as we keep the Torah, we are righteous.

Romans 3 “Then what advantage does the Jew have? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? **2** Great in every respect. First, that they were entrusted with the actual words of God. **3** What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it? **4** Far from it! Rather, God must prove to be true, though every person *be found* a liar, as it is written:

“SO THAT YOU ARE JUSTIFIED IN YOUR WORDS,
AND PREVAIL WHEN YOU ARE JUDGED.”

5 But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? The God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous, is He? (I am speaking from a human viewpoint.) **6** Far from it! For *otherwise*, how will God judge the world? **7** But if through my lie the truth of God abounded to His glory, why am I also still being judged as a sinner? **8** And *why* not say (just as we are slanderously reported and as some claim that we say), "Let's do evil that good may come of it"? Their condemnation is deserved. **9** What then? Are we better *than they*? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; **10** as it is written:

"THERE IS NO RIGHTEOUS PERSON, NOT EVEN ONE;

11 THERE IS NO ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,
THERE IS NO ONE WHO SEEKS OUT GOD;

12 THEY HAVE ALL TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME CORRUPT;
THERE IS NO ONE WHO DOES GOOD,
THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

13 "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE,
WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,"
"THE VENOM OF ASPES IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";

14 "THEIR MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";

15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,

16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,

17 AND THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN THE WAY OF PEACE."

18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; **20** because by the works of the Law none of mankind will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* knowledge of sin. **21** But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, **22** but *it is the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no

distinction, **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, **25** whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This* was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in God's *merciful* restraint He let the sins previously committed go unpunished; **26** for the demonstration, *that is*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

27 Where then is boasting? It has been excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. **28** For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from works of the Law. **29** Or is God *the God* of Jews only? Is He not *the God* of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, **30** since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one.

31 Do we then nullify the Law through faith? Far from it! On the contrary, we establish the Law."



What then about works?

James 2:14-26 "What use is it, my brothers *and sisters*, if someone says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith also, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.¹⁸ But someone may *well* say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." ¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. ²⁰ But are you willing to acknowledge, you foolish person, that faith without works is useless? ²¹ Was our father Abraham not justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ **You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.** ²⁵ In the same way, was Rahab the prostitute not justified by works also when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead."

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."