

## Romans

“confess and believe”

So good morning, I am so glad to be home with my church family, Laury and I have been on the road, first to Wilbur and then last week in Spokane, Tim has done an amazing job of caring for the church, I am so excited for the transition that we are all in the middle of, God has such incredible plans for all of us.

When we are gone, we are reminded of just how incredible this community is. Other churches are special, but this is a very special community and because we are out helping other churches and doing other transitions, we get to see first hand just how blessed we are; we get to be a part of what Jesus is doing in this community, but we get to see new leaders step into what their calling is and be a part of God's work in their lives...

We are in the book of Romans, let me tell you, it is hard to not go so deep we all get lost, there is so much we can glean from the book of Romans, so give us some grace if we get going and don't know how or when to slow down, we get so excited...

The chapters of 9-11 are some of the most mis understood in the entire book, but if you take things in the context of the whole bible, in the context of the character of God, it is really simple.

The age old question: what must I do to be saved?

***For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, “The man who does those things shall live by them.”<sup>6</sup> 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)<sup>7</sup> or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).<sup>8</sup> 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):<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. <sup>13</sup> For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” Romans 10:5-13***

With God, it has always been and will always be all about faith! Verse 9 is as clear as the nose on your face, if you confess WHAT YOU BELIEVE, you will be saved, it starts with believing and then ends with confession, it is not about works, it is not about what you have done or who you are, it is about faith in the sacrifice of what Jesus has done and that is that.

Why is this so hard for people to understand? All the work has been done and our response is easy to do and understand, but something in each of us is the pride to say “I did my part”

***Getting saved is easy, getting the human heart to respond is the hard part!***

It takes humility and most of us lack that. The steps I take are easy, preparing my heart to take them is not.

Salvation does not come from a superficial prayer, it is a deep, heartfelt decision.

So to understand this passage in Romans, we have to go back to the passage of the Torah that Paul was reciting;

***“For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ <sup>13</sup> Nor 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?’ <sup>14</sup> But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. Deuteronomy 30:11-14***

This is Moses talking here;

- a. Vs 12 you don't have to go up to heaven to find the Torah, God took the initiative to come to you at Mount Sinai. Kind of sounds like the cross, God came down...
- b. Vs. 13 You don't have to search other cultures or religions, God brought the Torah to us and wrote it in our own language...
- c. Vs. 14 all we have to do is memorize it and don't forget what God says so we will obey...

In the book of Deuteronomy. Moses explains that the person who loves God, will keep God's promises and there will be a spiritual life and prosperity, but he also reminds us that we all have a problem, we are descendants of Adam and as such we are a rebellious lot! Our flesh is powerful and our passions and appetites are so strong, that none of us are capable of reaching the high standard of righteousness and godliness. We cannot do it! Knowing this, God provided another way to become in right standing with God, righteous.

### **1. Faith.**

So, in Romans chapter 10, Paul tells us that what Moses said is still true today.

- a. Vs 6 we don't need to go up to heaven to ask God to send a savior, He already did it before we even asked. He sent His son as a man...
- b. Vs 7 we do not have to keep waiting for the promised Messiah whom death cannot hold, (Acts 2:24-32) He already has been raised from the dead on the third day and has appeared to hundreds of people, including Paul himself.
- c. Vs. 8-9 all we need to do is confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior and believe that God raised Him from the dead.
- d. Vs 10 to believe that Jesus was raised from the dead is to have faith like Abraham, (Romans 4:16-21 Heb. 11:17-19) and to therefore be given the gift of righteousness, (Romans 4:3). Believing requires us to have genuine faith, and confessing Him as our Lord requires us to submit to Him and have courage.

## **2. Confess.**

What you say with your mouth must accurately reflect what is in the heart!  
Words don't mean a thing if you don't believe!

To confess Jesus as Lord means living out TRUE submission to Him in every area of your life...

What confession is not:

- a. Words I don't mean, I just say something to be saying something...

What confession is:

- a. It is declaring, inviting and surrendering to His Lordship in EACH area of my life. When I have a decision to make, when temptation comes, when ministry is not fun anymore, when I am out of money, what I watch over the internet or on T.V. it is obeying and honoring my LORD. Do I act like a Christian, or am I proud and "self righteous"...

The word says they "overcame him by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony and they did not love their life even when faced with death"

The word says that "if we confess Jesus before men, He will confess us before my Father in heaven, but if we deny Him before men, He will deny us before the Father"

Our confession is for a life time, it is not just a "one time" prayer that gives me a "get out of hell" card...

## **3. Believe**

In addition to confession, we must have a genuine faith in our heart. Now, there are some elements to that faith and believing, but none is more important to actually believing that Christ physically rose from the dead. That is the capstone to of our Christian faith, because this is the miracle which proves the Father accepted the sacrifice for our sins on the cross! Had Jesus remained in the grave, our hope for eternal life would be dead as well.

This believe is NOT that we convince our selves that some dead man came back to life or even mentally agreeing that a miracle might have happened.

**What it is,** being totally convinced He's alive because I have met the risen savior, I had a personal revelation of who Jesus is...

Then, putting my full faith and trust in Him, committing my hope for eternal life to the fact that Jesus died for me on the cross, so that when God raised Him from the dead, it meant my sins were completely forgiven and even more that death and judgement have passed from me forever, death has been conquered...

In these verses, Paul makes it very clear that anyone can be saved and that God wants to save everyone. All a person needs to do is confess and believe, but for some reason that seems to hard for us, that is why God sent His Holy Spirit so that when the gospel is preached, it resonates in our hearts and the information goes from just being information to revelation.

The Holy Spirit opens our understanding, He convicts and convinces and makes us aware of the presence of God. Most of that is unspoken, we don't need to be argued into believing something, the Spirit helps us to understand what God has done for us.

So I ask you, have made the decision...