



**How to Be Saved
And the Schemes of the Devil to Try and Keep Anyone from Hearing
Romans 10:8-17**

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Last time we talked about that word that many today do not want to talk about at all, the word “saved.” When you are talking about what the Lord has done for you and this word comes up in the discussion, there is a better than even chance that the person you are talking to, is about to be very polite and try and turn you off. They will ask questions, they will redirect over and over again and that is all to get you and me off of the topic of being “saved.” Saved from what? Our sins. Satan does not want anyone to be saved, he wants everyone to go to hell. Tough reality, but it is how he attacks the lord.



First, let's look at the simplest and clearest statement in the Bible that answers the question, "what must I do to be saved?"

Romans 10:8–13

"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 are preaching, **that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.** For the Scripture says, **"WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME."** **For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for "EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."**" (NASB 2020)

Salvation is as close as our lips. It is not something we have to send others to do for us, that work has already been done by Jesus.

As we discussed last time, it is simply a prayer away.

There are no works involved, no special words, no special format, just a heart that wants Jesus.

To review where we have been, let's just review the ABCs.

- A. Jesus Christ came to this planet as a man for the sole purpose of paying the penalty we would have to pay for our sin. Because He died for our sin, admitting our sin and asking Him to forgive us is a good place to start. (Romans 3:21-24)
- B. That would be our need to believe that what He did on the cross was enough. We believe He died on the cross for our sin and that He then rose from the dead in victory over sin and over death.
- C. Confess, yes, I know the order is reversed from the first part of our text. The reality is this is all happening pretty much at one time. So, we confess with our mouth, Jesus is Lord. Please do not twist the words to say that you have to stand up in public somewhere and then announce, "Jesus is Lord." When we say that, we are also removing ourselves from that position. We have been doing our own thing for a very long time, so I find myself having to reaffirm Him as my Lord daily, sometimes more than once in the day.

The actual mechanics, if you want to call it that, of salvation is not all that complicated.

Salvation is a free gift, offered by grace, to all who believe.

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; not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (NASB 2020)

Jesus already paid the price, and as we covered last time, the moment you say yes to Jesus, a bunch of stuff happens all at about the same time.

Are you now never going to sin again. Yeah, don't go there. We are indeed made new creations at salvation, but we are still in fallen human bodies subject to the curse and one more thing, the sin nature is still there. Even Paul will tell us his need to submit to the Lord.

Romans 12:1

"Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.**" (NASB 2020)



Becoming more like Jesus, sanctification is what that is called, is a moment-by-moment thing. It is a present and keep presenting thing.

As we grow allowing the Holy Spirit to fill and lead us, we begin to discover some of the really egregious sins are happening less and less. We still have issues with other things like pride, wrong desires, putting anything else in front of Christ. But we are now in the process of conforming to Him.

Romans 10:10

“for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (NASB 2020)

Paul is saying what he just said, but in reverse order. My personal experience is that the reversed order seems to be what I have seen take place.

The Holy Spirit does His work and there is conviction of sin, we realize there is a problem that before we couldn't quite put our fingers on, but now we know. And we decide to take action on this knowledge by accepting His offer. We truly believe that He died on the cross to resolve our sin problem and I have prayed with some who that is the paramount problem, the sin.

The confession of Jesus Christ as Lord is a natural reaction to asking Him to forgive us of what we now believe He did for us on the cross and provided for us, salvation. And because it is not anything we could ever do for ourselves, He is indeed Lord of all.

Ok, so I have done this, it didn't take long to do, is He going to do this?

Romans 10:11–13

“For the Scripture says, **“WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.”** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for **“EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.”**” (NASB 2020)

We are now delivered from judgment; we will not be put to shame at the Great White Throne. If you have come to Christ, you are saved.

What we learn here is that Christ is not only easily accessible to us for the purpose of salvation. Heart and mouth, inward and outward, all readily accessible by each of us. But in verse 12, we find out that access is not limited to anyone at all. All may be saved; there is no access limitation. For those who are unable to speak, you are not barred. If you believe and then tell Him in prayer, even though it is silent, you are saved. Most of us can speak, but not all.

Christ is available for the purpose of salvation for all, no matter what the background or history or ethnicity or sins of the person coming to Him, is.

So, now that I have realized my need for Jesus Christ and am now saved. And as we have just seen, that is not complicated or tough to do, it is a prayer and eternity with Jesus only takes a few minutes to lock down. Then there are the changes that He begins, through the power of the Holy Spirit, in us.

We want others to know about what He has done for us. The freedom, the love, the calm, the peace. How do we spread this message? And there is a command connected to that.



Matthew 28:19

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,” (NASB 2020)

Literally, as we go about doing life, telling others about what Jesus has done for you will become as natural as breathing. First your friends will notice there is now something different about you. Then your family. And after you tell them what happened to you, in other words what Jesus has done for you. You have entered into doing as Christ asked us to do in Matthew 28.

Some though want to know what else can they do to tell others. Here at Calvary Chapel, we teach in person on Sunday and Thursday and we use two websites, two podcasts, one which is daily, as well as placing all our teachings online. We also are teamed up with Child Evangelism Fellowship to reach children in the schools as well. But the question is a good one. Paul talked about it.

Romans 10:14–17

“How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard? **And how are they to hear without a preacher? But how are they to preach unless they are sent?** Just as it is written: “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!” However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, “LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” (NASB 2020)

Many here do not realize this, but if you have told others about what Jesus has done for you, then you have beautiful feet.

Let’s talk a little bit though about some of the issues we will all encounter as we faithfully serve Him and step out to share with others.

This gets back to that scary word I referenced last time, saved.

The whole idea of being saved for many, is now a totally and utterly foreign concept. We no longer live in a culture where there are those who have grown up in or around church like I did and at least have a basic idea of the concept. Today many have been lied to by the deceivers that are out there redefining all of the terms of the scriptures, Satan’s way of keeping us in the dark is deceiving us over our need and then confusing us about the terms. And also lying about his own existence. I have learned that these days, more context is needed since either the person you are talking to has truly never heard of this before, or they have been lied to.

These things go by a name, the **schemes of the devil**. Robert Morey discusses our basic lack of knowledge these days.

One aspect of the Christian life that has been largely overlooked in modern times is the struggle believers face against the devices and schemes of the devil—devices which Satan uses to keep unbelievers from coming to Christ and Christians from living victoriously. Generations past were well informed about the devil. (Morey 2003, 7)

Here is the reality that many today, are not aware of. And the reason most are not aware, is because most followers of Jesus Christ are no longer being taught this. I want all of us to know of Satan’s schemes and how to achieve victory over them as we share with others.

First let’s deal with the elephant in the room, Satan. Intelligent supernatural evil. Why is it we struggle even with that concept? Because Satan is a master marketer. He has convinced most of our nation today



that the Bible is not a basis of truth. In fact, Satan has us believing that moral absolutes do not exist and that all moral truth is conditional, possibly situational, and is based on your own personal truth anyhow.

In 1966, Joseph Fletcher authored a book, **Situation Ethics: The New Morality**, which proposed an ethic of loving concern. In the book, Fletcher suggests that certain acts--such as lying, premarital sex, adultery, or even murder--might be morally right, depending on the circumstances.

Those who adhere to a situation ethics framework are today, those who would disavow there being any objective truth since if there was objective truth, their framework for ethical decision making becomes invalid. In a debate with Fletcher, Dr. Montgomery said the following, "Should he assure us, by swearing on his mother's grave, etc., that he will tell us the truth no matter what, can we even then relax our vigilance? After all, that very assurance may well be a situationally justified prevarication for the sake of "doing us good in love" by convincing us of the merits of situationalism. This brings us necessarily to a corollary of the ancient logical conundrum, treated at length by Bertrand Russell and others: "If a Cretan tells you that all Cretans are liars, can you believe him?" Our restatement goes: "If a situation ethicist, holding to the proposition that the end justifies the means in love, tells you that he is not lying, can you believe him?" (Fletcher and Montgomery 2015, 32)

And yes, this sounds incredibly familiar today. There is a false religion that is global that has as one of its precepts, Taqiyya. Ian McNaughton reveals some of this to us.

"Islam plays with the truth. Its doctrine of taqiyya (dissimulation or concealment) allows deception in order to save face or honour or the reputation of Islam especially in times of religious persecution. Hamid Enayat, a Muslim historian who was a fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford, stated, '[Taqiyya has] in practice become the norm of public behavior among all Muslims—both Sunni and Shi'a—whenever there is a conflict between faith and expediency.' This means that although 'truth' is considered very important to Islam and its religion, as revealed in the Quran, non-Muslims often face 'false or exaggerated statements introduced in order to make Islam appear in a better light'." (McNaughton 2019, 72)

That fact alone tends to take the fire away from those who do not learn from history and would assert to us that they have something new. Not really. Again, Solomon was right. There are those though who would say that what Fletcher proposed in the 60's are just old arguments coming from the 1960's, they didn't impact us. Actually, they did and they still are. The reality, this is a long offensive Satanically inspired psyop that has been going on for centuries.

When you throw out moral absolutes, like the Bible, you have a serious problem. Erwin Lutzer, former pastor of the Moody Church in Chicago, discusses that.

The Bible presents a moral system which has universal validity. This does not mean that moral decisions are always easy to make, since there may be legitimate disagreements as to whether a given act falls under the universal norm. Is a lie merely a false impression? Is gambling stealing? Is abortion murder? These are legitimate subjects for discussion and even disagreement. But whenever an action clearly falls under a propositional command of Scripture, that command judges the action as moral or immoral without exception. (Lutzer 1972, 105)

The world view of Fletcher was revealed in a comment he made early in the debate with Dr. Montgomery. No moral absolutes, and the Bible is not the objective absolute standard to use. Fletcher said "I remember remarking only parenthetically, but at what point I no longer recall, that none of the Ten Commandments represents a normative principle for human conduct which is intrinsically valid or universally obliging regardless of the circumstances, so that, for example, in some situations theft is the right thing to do; in other situations, respect for the property of others is the right way to act. (Fletcher and Montgomery 2015, 13)



No wonder we see the confusion today. God in His word tells us what is and is not sin. It is unfortunate, but many in the culture today believe God has blinked or grades on the curve, yet nothing has changed. We have learned much of that here in the book of Romans.

I fully agree with the assessment of Dr. Barna who states that “believing that society has the right to determine morality apart from the laws of God is an act of anarchy. It is simply a group of ignorant but self-righteous wannabes stealing God’s authority. In doing so, sinners claim they are the rightful arbiters of righteousness because they want to be or feel they can dole out moral prescriptions or that their mere existence makes them somehow deserving of such authority. That perspective is a seminal depiction of the sin of pride: man replacing his Creator. (Barna 2026, 49)

Paul was pretty clear about this when we went through Romans 3.

Romans 3:21–26

“But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, but it is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction, for **all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus**, 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; 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.” (NASB 2020)

So, here we are, we understand how incredibly simple it is to come to Jesus Christ and be saved of our sins changing our eternity. For many of us, we then also begin to realize that God’s standards are still there. Yes, part of what He does once we come to Him is the Holy Spirit begins to change us and we begin to look at the world through a Biblical lens and as a result, understand what it means to have a serious objective moral standard that never change; and Satan is lying to us all the time as part of his scheme to get us to either not tell someone what Jesus has done for us, or to fail and fall. What do we do? We engage since our Lord has already won it all on the cross.

Ephesians 6:10–20

“Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.** Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, **HAVING BELTED YOUR WAIST WITH TRUTH, AND HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having STRAPPED ON YOUR FEET THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;** in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION** and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and every request for all the saints, and pray in my behalf, that speech may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” (NASB 2020)

The first thing we learn here is “be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.” We want to tell others about Jesus; we know that the full answer to the question of salvation is right here in Romans 10 and there is that thing about having beautiful feet. And as you are sharing your story you make a passing comment about how He has forgiven you of your sins and bang, you get hit with the first hint of a redirect.



The person you are talking to has someone else who is talking to them. That someone is in Ephesians 6:12. Just like that, you are engaged in spiritual warfare. Remember this.

1 John 4:4

"You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." (NASB 2020)

You are sharing and someone wants to chase rabbits. Got it. Or they want to discuss that Satan doesn't exist or evil is determined by one's viewpoint or on and on. Do not sweat it. Do a quick Nehemiah prayer.

Nehemiah 2:4

"Then the king said to me, "What would you request?" **So I prayed to the God of heaven.**" (NASB 2020)

Basically, a silent prayer to the Lord as simple as, "Lord, HELP!" And He will.

You see, you already know the truth and the simplicity of how to be saved. That is what our text is all about, how to be saved. You know it.

As a follower of Jesus, you knew this was going to be a possible outcome. And you also know there is no such thing as an emergency pager for Pastoral input. It is you and Jesus with the Holy Spirit in you; you already outnumber anything and anyone who you share with.

Morey tells us this about the one we are truly engaged with. "The biblical record treats the devil as a sentient being who is a master criminal of great intelligence and malice. To underestimate his power and his schemes is to play the fool. But to overestimate his power is idolatry." (Morey 2003, 7)

In Christ, you have this. It is His armor you and I are wearing and relying on, not ours. And the very first order we get from Paul here in Ephesians is what I would call, the order of the day. It never changes, the order is always the same. "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might." Let's circle back to something we have already covered. Paul is challenging us to speak out for the Lord. Earlier, he told us why we can do this.

Romans 8:31–39

"What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?** Who will bring charges against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, but rather, was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or trouble, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? Just as it is written: "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE REGARDED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." But **in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**" (NASB 2020)

This is our reality. God is indeed for us. We cannot lose and in Christ, fully armored up with God's armor, we can indeed stand. Why do we need to do this? Because the enemy is not a wimp, he is much older than you and I and has an extensive arsenal of resources he can draw on. So do we. Jesus Christ. Never underestimate him. But the Bible tells us, to face him and resist him.

James 4:7

"Submit therefore to God. But **resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**" (NASB 2020)



In Ephesians 6:13 we discover that as we stand in His armor and resist, we can stand firm in the “evil day.” We must have this strength as we go about serving Him. It is absolutely essential as our present day, is indeed evil. Here in the last days, that is now normal and spiritual warfare is expected everyday. But all I want to do is share Jesus with my family or friends. Satan does not care as he wants no one to be saved. David Martyn Lloyd-Jones adds encouragement.

“It is not easy to be a Christian at a time like this when you have men in positions of high authority in the Church talking about ‘meeting atheists in heaven’! Christians are being confused by these things, particularly, perhaps, young Christians. The devil is unusually busy and active, creating this uncertainty about the essentials of the faith and producing this utter confusion—‘What is the Gospel? What is not the Gospel?’ Undoubtedly we live in a very evil day; and if we are to withstand at such a time as this, there is only one way; and it is the way the Apostle teaches us here. We need this power, and the whole armour of God; and then we shall be able to stand. Thank God that this is so. Though the confusion is terrible, those who believe the truth still can stand. Do not be disheartened, do not be discouraged, do not be misled, do not be put off. You may be standing alone, perhaps, but you can still be enabled to stand though the days are so cruelly evil and vile and foul.” (Lloyd-Jones 1977, 15-16)

As you and I understand that the devil does indeed scheme to stop us and prevent us, he will lie to you and me about the resources we have in Jesus.

If you are like me, we have difficulty understanding why, when we become followers of Jesus, did He leave us here on this rotten planet? It all goes back to the Great Commission. That is His plan to reach the planet. There is no plan b. That is the plan and He, believe it or not, trusts you and me to get it done for Him. From Jesus.

John 17:15–19

“I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.” (NLT)

The key to perseverance these evil days is simple. Begin the day with the Lord, armor up, follow Him. Knowledge of His word is a plus, but with the Holy Spirit, He will indeed direct you and me to those places we need to know in the scriptures as we deal with attacks of the enemy, day to day life, service for Him, and persevering through trials.

This is all very possible. You can indeed have seriously beautiful feet realizing that it is the Lord who is doing this and not you and me.

Overwhelmed by it all? Yep, me too. I average being overwhelmed at least once a day, sometimes more.

Satan wants you and me to be bummed out by the constant redirects and insane questions we get. For me, the Lord wants me to respond to the trolls on the internet the as He instructed His disciples. I would prefer to respond in the same manner they approached me and every time I begin to construct a flaming retort or rebuke, the Holy Spirit whispers this in my ear.

Luke 6:27–28

“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.” (ESV)

You see, He wants us to develop character, not be a character.



He wants us to be imagers of Him and to reflect Him to the world and that is really hard to do when I am busy responding to the world like the world. But again, Paul has told us what the Lord is wanting to do in each of us as we follow Him.

Romans 5:1–5

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we also have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we celebrate in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also **celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**” (NASB 2020)

The very simple truth for all of us is as we go about sharing the simple gospel of Jesus Christ and tell someone our story, we are engaging in spiritual warfare “against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.” (Ephesians 6:12b–13, NASB 2020)

That is not an if, it is a promise. Now we know, now we can armor up and understand that it is all because of the simplicity of the gospel and how available salvation is for everyone. This is why Satan will attack. This is why Paul adds this after stating the clearest statement of how to be saved in the Bible.

Romans 10:14–17

“How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? But how are they to preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written: “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!” However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, “LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” (NASB 2020)

Paul asks and answers some questions here about the availability of salvation. It is all about salvation be readily available to those who call on the Lord.

First of all, is this really possible? The answer is yes. The gospel, the word of faith has indeed been proclaimed. When you tell someone, that is what you are doing.

Has the word been heard? He did not ask has it been understood, he asked has it been heard implying first of all that there was a proclamation that was made. Today we see and know that the messengers of the gospel, individual believers, radio, television, the internet, podcasts. Indeed the word is going out and those who have not yet heard in their own language, that is also now being attacked.

Has the message been simple and clear? Here at Calvary Chapel, we try to make it simple and clear. There are some who want to make it complicated and convoluted all in the name of religion. But faith in Christ is not religion, it is a relationship with our Creator.

The message has been proclaimed, it has been heard, it has gone out to most of the planet, there are those today working to make that happen, and to some degree, it has been understood.

Why do I say that? Because the ones who are redirecting have heard enough to know they no longer want to discuss the topic with you. You are challenging them in the same place we were challenged before we came to Christ, our truth. Our doing our own thing unimpeded and thinking we had everything wired while we slowly died inside. But we listened to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and said yes.



That is an important thing to remember about telling your story, it is the Holy Spirit's responsibility to achieve results or present to the point of rejection, not yours. Our job is to be faithful.

The missing thing here is faith. We can present and do so faithfully, but the Holy Spirit is the one who takes it up with those who have been presented the message. Not everyone will do that.

Romans 10:16–17

"However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." (NASB 2020)

Hearing cannot happen with someone telling. That is our job.

Does Satan scheme to stop us from doing so? Yes, he does.

But even at that, the word goes out.

Romans 10:17

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." (NASB 2020)

Dr. McGee adds this. "Faith does not come by preaching philosophy or psychology or some political nostrum; it comes by preaching the Word of God. Until you hear the Word of God, you cannot be saved, my friend." (McGee 1997, 720)

And now we are back to where we began. Are you saved?

We have discussed this, but if you do not know Jesus, it is now your turn, that is what verse 17 is all about. Faith in what Jesus did on the cross.

Let's pray.

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