



Are You Saved?
God's Righteousness Made Available Because of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Romans 9:30-10:9

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Romans 9:30–10:4

“What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, but the righteousness that is by faith; however, Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though they could by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, just as it is written: “BEHOLD, I AM LAYING IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.” Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance



with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes." (NASB 2020)

What we are going to be talking about today is the one thing that probably scares more people on the face of this planet than anything else. No one wants to talk about it, hear about it, discuss it, or even see it show up on their internet feeds. Some go even as far as killing those who talk about this word. It is this, "saved."

Ray Stedman tells us about what he has seen take place when this word comes up.

People cringe when they hear it. Perhaps it conjures up visions of hot-eyed, zealous buttonholers -- usually with bad breath -- who walk up and grab you and say, "Brother, are you saved?" Or perhaps it raises visions of a tiny band of Christians at a street meeting in front of some saloon singing, "Give the winds a mighty voice, Jesus saves! Jesus saves!" Whatever the reason, I do know that people become bothered at this word. (Stedman 1976)

Based on my personal experience, bothered is being mild. People hate, and I mean with a capital H, hate to discuss the topic of their need to be saved.

I have seen also in the online world that in order to feel better about themselves and the lifestyle they have chosen to live, one which is indeed not one Jesus would recommend, that civility is out the door. I have been called a lot of different names over the years online and the only one that ever has bugged me is "grifter." Not so much that I am being called that, but what it does point out is that many who hate to discuss their need for Jesus, their need for salvation, is because of those who they have encountered in the past who are Christians in name only. Those so-called Pastors are truly nothing more than greedy money-grubbing servants of the devil. The constant talk about money, and it is real in many churches, has destroyed the impact of the gospel and caused an offense for many.

The real truth though is that Satan will use anything, and I mean anything, to distract the mind of someone who the Holy Spirit is beginning to show the need of the Savior to. Distractions do indeed include the past performances of hypocritical pastors from the news, to include their failures in every form that takes place in. Don't argue, our job is to tell our story about what Jesus did for us and let the Holy Spirit deal with the fallout.

Never ever take it personally when someone accuses you of being a bug-eyed Jesus freak interested only in putting another notch into your Bible. Yep, heard that one too.

Jesus talked about the distractions to "saved."

Luke 8:5-15

“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those



who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.” (ESV)

Not everyone who says they are saved, are.

I have set in multiple hour seminars and classes discussing how to make the gospel more attractive to those who do not know Jesus. That idea is what is behind the seeker friendly church. Make the church attractive to the sinner and then soft pedal the gospel to them. Jesus did not work that way. He was a more of a table flipping kind of a guy who would sit down and engage in a discussion with you, but He never deviated from the mission or the truth of the need. His conversation with Nicodemus shows us that. The truth is, we must be saved from our sin, and Jesus Christ came to this planet to make that available for all.

John 3:13–21

“No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that **whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.” (ESV)

Why do we tell others and why do we ignore the hostility? Jesus. No one is waiting to die so they can be lost. Jesus just told us that those who do not know Him, already are lost. The Highway to Hell is rather full these days and not well lit either. We continue dragging people from it onto that road that has a whole lot less traffic and lights.

I used to sit in traffic in Los Angeles, not moving at all and seeing nothing but cars in front and behind, longing for a two-lane road with just me on it. I didn't believe those existed but one day I drove from Clovis, New Mexico to Albuquerque and discovered a road where I was indeed the only one it for almost 100 miles, almost two hours without seeing another car or person either. Lots of cattle, but no one at all. There are a few more than that on the way to heaven but there are times that you do feel all alone. We are all, after coming to Jesus, family members now. But we keep working to pull people off the main drag and onto a totally different path.

But because those who do not know Jesus are already lost, then saving them from that path to eternal death and destruction is indeed what we do. We do indeed talk about being saved since if they do not know Jesus, they need to be saved from the future that for right now, is to be theirs unless they agree with the idea of needing to be saved.

The real uncomfortable truth of God's word is simple. Without His grace, we are all doomed. Ray Stedman tells us “It is the grace of God that reaches down and calls us out of that lostness and gives us an opportunity to come to Christ and be saved. Therefore, saved is a perfectly legitimate word to use. It makes us uncomfortable only when we refuse to face the fact that men and women are lost. They are born into a perishing race in which their humanity is being put to improper uses and is gradually deteriorating and falling apart, and they are facing an eternity of separation from God.” This is a fact and is indeed the truth of the scriptures. (Stedman 1976)



Picking up our text from chapter 9 and going into chapter 10, we are discovering that Paul is still using Israel as an example, and not one to lift up and follow, but one that had every opportunity to include a desired relationship with YAHWEH which the bulk of the nation said no to. Not once, but time and time again. Psalm 78 points that out.

Asaph, who was used by the Holy Spirit to write Psalm 78, tells us up front why he will show the repeating problem of the nation not learning from history. He is working at breaking the pattern which based on what Paul teaches us here in Romans 10, is still an issue for the nation.

Psalm 78:10–11

“They did not keep their covenant with God, and they refused to obey his law. They forgot what he had done, the amazing things he had shown them.” (NET 2nd ed.)

They thought that racial heritage trumped anything else. Add to that the reliance on the doing rather than the being and here we are in Romans.

Romans 9:31–32

“however, Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though they could by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone,” (NASB 2020)

And we talked about that last time. How why they stumbled and how even Jesus worked to keep His team from going that route as well. Ironside tells us that “When God sent His Son into the world, who is the embodiment of all perfection, in whom the law was fulfilled perfectly, they knew Him not, but stumbled over the stumbling stone of a lowly Christ when they were expecting a triumphant King. They realized not their need of one who could accomplish righteousness on their behalf, because they lacked faith.” (Ironside 1928)

Paul concludes this thought and tells us that his kinsman, for the most part, are not approaching righteousness through faith, but through works. They were sucked in by religion. Jesus, their Messiah came and offered the Kingdom on a contingent basis of acceptance of Him as Messiah. He was rejected and the Kingdom postponed until after the Tribulation.

This is the answer to why are so few Jews being saved then, as well as now. It is here in this section of scripture. The nation, as a whole, rejected righteousness on God’s conditions, through Jesus Christ, and instead wanted to have it on their conditions. There is a remnant who has believed, but it is not the entirety of Israel.

So, if the nation as a whole has stumbled on the stumbling block of Jesus Christ, what happens to the promises to Israel? They are still there and God will still fulfill them but at a future date. Paul still wants to see his people saved, but there are three things in the way as outlined by Dr. Fruchtenbaum, to that taking place.

“First, Israel’s failure is related to spiritual pride and self-sufficiency, and the fault does not lie with God. Second, Israel’s rejection is not complete nor total, because there are Jewish people who did not reject the Messiahship of Jesus. Third, Israel’s rejection is not final; in fact, the nation as a nation will receive the Messiah sometime in the future.” (Fruchtenbaum 1994, 725) But it will be the remnant remaining when Jesus returns.

The nation did not accept Messiah because they were too busy trying to be made righteous by works, by following the law as well as all the oral traditions piled on as well.



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)

It is a gift of God and not the result of having been born Jewish. It is a gift of God and not the result of following the law. It is a gift of God and not the result of anything else and that was a stumbling stone to the nation. To be saved, they must trust in Jesus and what He did on the cross, but they refused and as a result, were not saved. They stumbled, just as Isaiah had prophesied they would. Their pride wanted it their way with their Messiah and their own scenario of all all of this was to go down. And it did not happen.

Paul restates what he had said earlier.

Romans 10:1–2

“Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I testify about them that **they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.**” (NASB 2020)

Paul wants to see the nation come to Christ and be saved, but he is okay with only reaching each one he is able to reach, instead, as part of the remnant. Zeal, sincerity, is not enough. They are zealous for God, but they do not have the requisite knowledge to go along with the zeal. Hosea said this would become an issue.

Hosea 4:6

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Since you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the Law of your God, I also will forget your children.” (NASB 2020)

Dr. Fruchtenbaum again, “While the Jewish people had a knowledge of God, they did not know God in Christ, and that is crucial for salvation. In the Greek text, Paul wrote that they had gnosis—they had knowledge; but they did not have epignosis—they did not have full knowledge.” (Fruchtenbaum 1994, 735)

Romans 10:3–5

“For not knowing about God’s righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes of the righteousness that is based on the Law, that the person who performs them will live by them.” (NASB 2020)

This is a serious problem, and it is seen repeating today with religious people who want to feel good about themselves without having the accountability and the need to trust in Christ. When we do that, when we feel like we prefer religion, there are some questions for you.

Are you fully aware of the righteousness of God? We covered this in serious depth back in Romans 3. We spent a lot of time talking about this.

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)

God’s righteousness is only available in Christ. There is no other way or person. When we come to Christ in faith, God justifies us and does a unique accounting transfer; our sin and wickedness is transferred to Jesus, who paid for it on the cross, and in return we get His sinless perfection, His righteousness.

By faith only, not by works.

But that is not good enough for a lot of people today as they reject this one single premise.

John 14:6

“Jesus said to him, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.”** (NASB 2020)

Most of Israel rejected that as they continued to look for the Messiah who would lead them to military victory and free them from Rome. Sadly, Bar Kochba brought that to them, they bought it.

While the Gospels paint an image of a divine, miracle-working Messiah, not all Jews of that time imagined a supernatural messianic deliverance. Many expected a messianic figure who would be an exceptional military and political leader, and Bar Kochba appeared to fit such expectations. (Shirokov and Lizorkin-Eyzenberg 2016)

The desire to achieve their own righteousness and to do so per their own requirements wound up with Jerusalem being leveled in 135 AD.

This was followed by fierce official persecution across the Empire to include compulsory expulsion of all Jews from Jerusalem and the area around it. Eusebius tells us that “when the city had been emptied of the Jewish nation and had suffered the total destruction of its ancient inhabitants, it was colonized by a different race, and the Roman city which subsequently arose changed its name and was called Ælia, in honor of the emperor Ælius Adrian. And as the church there was now composed of Gentiles, the first one to assume the government of it after the bishops of the circumcision was Marcus.” (Eusebius of Caesaria 1890, 177-178)

Not a good result but exactly what Jesus said would happen as well as Moses in the Torah. Disobedience and wanting to approach God their way on their terms, religion in other words, brought them to the beginning of the full diaspora which remained until Israel declared itself to be a nation again in 1948. And they are still looking in the wrong places.

Most of our culture today rejects the exclusivity of Christ in favor of inclusion. And the sad news is, a lot of the “church” also rejects the exclusivity of Jesus Christ over anything and anyone else for salvation. Jesus plus is all the rage. Jesus plus works, Jesus plus prosperity, and on and on.

Romans 10:4

“For **Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.**” (NASB 2020)

Paul has explained to us with great detail that the only way you and I can be rid of the consequences of our sin, is Jesus. He, thanks to what He did on the cross, has taken our sin onto Himself and paid our penalty for all of our sin, past present and future, by dying on the cross. He then rose from the dead reflecting the freedom He has achieved for us and the victory He has provided on the cross. We deal with those who use the smokescreens of religion, rather than Christ. What are those?



People are basically good. Or so the culture wants you and me to believe. No, people are not basically good.

Jeremiah 17:9

"The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?" (NASB 2020)

Romans 5:6–8

"For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous person; though perhaps for the good person someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (NASB 2020)

George Barna lists a few of the smokescreens being put up today.

- People make mistakes but that is not the same as sin.
- People are not perfect but they're basically good at heart.
- What matters most is a person's intentions.
- Sin is insignificant because God loves everyone, sin or no sin.
- Some sins are worse than others, so everything's cool with God unless you commit a "major" sin.
- As long as you're a better person than most other people, sin will not affect you. Satan does not exist so neither does evil.
- There is no such thing as Hell, or a place of torment, so after you die, sin won't matter.
- God could put an end to sin if it really bothered Him.
- Those are just some of the smokescreens people hide behind to avoid dealing with the reality of sin. There are many ways people soothe their guilty conscience rather than admit their sinfulness and confess their failings to God." (Barna 2026, 58-59)

And now you know some of the smokescreens and you are the one who has the solution at hand, Jesus Christ. Hell is real, sin is real, and eternity either with Christ, or in punishment is all very real.

Did you notice the common factor of those smokescreens that are listed? It is to draw you into a conversation that is designed to get you off of the point of sin and the need for a savior. They are all designed to stop you from telling your story and saying, you need to be "saved."

The smokescreens tend to lead to rabbit holes.

This is where you do as I was trained to do when being asked questions that take you off topic, you do a redirect to stay on topic.

That could possibly look like this. "I get where you are coming from because there are a lot of voices out there that say this, but what about you? What do you think, are you a sinner?"

Before you answer that question, let me tell you what Jesus Christ has done for me because. He has changed me and then just tell your story.

A redirect answers a question without answering the question but provides a questions back connected to the message you were presenting in the first place. Don't worry about what to say, pray for wisdom and ask the Lord to give you the wisdom and the words, then let Him do His thing as you share.

Jesus, the master of the redirect, gives us an example in Matthew 16. He asks a question and His disciples try to get a conversation going.



Matthew 16:13–16

“Now when Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, **“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets.”** He said to them, **“But who do you yourselves say that I am?”** Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”” (NASB 2020)

Jesus asked a question that His disciples really did not want to answer, they instead wanted to move to a less controversial topic of comparing Him to John the Baptists or Elijah. But Jesus was driving for what they really believed. And He redirected to that pin down point. No more wiggle room, what do you think.

Romans 10:4

“For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” (NASB 2020)

In the Greek, the first word in this sentence is τέλος (telos) and is translated as end. Christ is the telos of the Law. We read that and think, He ended it. That would be a misinterpretation. This word has a richer meaning than our English word it was translated to. Rushdoony tells us that “Telos means accomplishment, perfection, or success, not destruction. The word telos is the root of our English word teleology, i.e., the shaping of things to a purpose, a word suggestive of providence. Thus, Christ is not the destruction of the law of God but the perfect expression thereof. He is righteousness incarnate. Paul then goes on to speak of the necessity of faith, of a total expression of Christ in our lives. Being now members of Christ, we must set forth His righteousness or justice.” (Rushdoony 1997, 192)

Why do we keep chasing after and doing things to make us feel better about God. Religion encourages that by the way. Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe, sin has left a crimson stain, and He has washed me white as snow.

The goal of the Law was indeed righteousness, but that is not achievable by following the Law.

Hebrews 10:4

“For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” (NASB 2020)

Christ fulfilled the Law and He did that for all who believe knowing that no one could follow the law.

Matthew 5:17–18

“Do not presume that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke of a letter shall pass from the Law, until all is accomplished!**” (NASB 2020)

And that is attainable only for those who believe. Faith is indeed a requirement.

Romans 1:17

“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written: **“BUT THE RIGHTEOUS ONE WILL LIVE BY FAITH.”**” (NASB 2020)

What we learn here in verse 4 is this, the offer of salvation is for anyone, Jew or Gentile, who believes. Even though, the nation as a whole had rejected their Messiah, the offer is still outstanding and for any Jew who does believe, they will be saved just as any Gentile who believes.

Romans 10:5

“For Moses writes of the righteousness that is based on the Law, that the person who performs them will live by them.” (NASB 2020)



That is exactly what Moses wrote on behalf of the Lord in Leviticus 18:5. It is clear, the one who performs the statutes of the Law will live by the Law. Blaiklock explains, “That is precisely what the bewildered Jew said he was doing. But Paul has gone to tremendous pains to prove that such self-confidence was based on a defective view of performance, and a lamentably faulty view of sin. To keep the Law, and to “live” by doing so, was the aim of every true Israelite. But even before Christ came, it must have been an endeavor conscious of its inadequacy, with calling on God to help, lift and forgive. Paul is aiming his words rather at the Pharisee and legalist who claimed perfection and full achievement. “Keep the Law and live.” “But the Law cannot be kept” (Galatians 3:10–12).” (Blaiklock 2018, 548)

David knew the law was inadequate to forgive. In his psalm of repentance from what he did with Bathsheba, he states what it is the Lord has shown Him what is important, and it isn't the Law.

Psalms 51:14–17

“Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness. Unseal my lips, O Lord, that my mouth may praise you. **You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.**” (NLT)

Your righteousness does not cut it. We cannot save ourselves. The lies we tell ourselves prior to coming to Jesus are exactly that, lies. Unfortunately, thanks to the work of George Barna, we know what some of them are as well as those who adhere to the truth.

- 81% expect to have some type of positive life-after-death outcome (Hebrews 9:27).
- Six out of ten adults believe there are multiple paths to salvation, and every salvation path is as valid as the next. A minority (40%) reject the idea that there are many viable paths to salvation. (John 14:6)
- 34% of adults believe they will live with God forever because they confessed their sins and accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, and that relationship will exempt them from God's eternal punishment. (Romans 10:8-10)
- 74% believe a sinner can overcome the effects of sin by working hard to compensate for their failings. (Romans 6:23)
- 57% say a sinner can overcome the effects of sin by making the appropriate sacrifices to atone for their sins. (John 14:6, Hebrews 10:12)
- 12% say it is most likely that they will be reincarnated, but three times as many adults believe that reincarnation is a real possibility for them. (Hebrews 9:27, Revelation 20:11-15)
- Most adults rely on sources other than the Bible to determine what will happen to them after they die. (Barna 2026, 62)

Romans 10:6–8

“But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: “DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, ‘WHO WILL GO UP INTO HEAVEN?’ (that is, to bring Christ down), or ‘WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).” 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,” (NASB 2020)

Paul here is teaching something that he has realized with his knowledge of Torah, something that many of his contemporaries have not picked up on. Moses taught salvation by grace through faith, just like Paul did. Ray Stedman tells us.

Moses knew that the Law would not work. Why, even as Moses was bringing it down from the mountaintop, the people at the bottom of the mountain had broken all ten of the commandments before they were given to them. Moses knew that the people could not keep them, and therefore Moses also taught that God had provided another way by which people could be delivered when they failed to keep



the Law. He saw clearly that God would lay the foundation for salvation in the incarnation and the resurrection of Jesus. That is why Paul quotes these words from Deuteronomy. Moses saw the coming of Christ down from heaven; he saw the resurrection, the raising of Jesus from the dead. Paul clearly indicates that all along God had this basis in mind for how people were to come to Christ. (Stedman 1976)

Deuteronomy 30:11–14

“For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ Neither 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?’ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.” (ESV)

Jesus Christ came down to this planet to show us the Father negating the need for anyone to ascend to heaven. But He also did that in His ascension to the Father.

John 14:8–10

“Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.’” (ESV)

To obtain this righteousness, pe Moses, one does not need to go to heaven or Sheol. “Faith righteousness is near and it is accessible. What Moses said to Israel is here applied to Christ.” This righteousness is by faith and has nothing to do with human effort or merit. Christ was sent by the Father, incarnated as a man and He also rose from the dead and then ascended to the Father where He is right now making intercession for us. Righteousness by faith is not far away at all and is totally reachable. (Fruchtenbaum 1994, 736)

How close is then reveled to us, it is in your heart and mouth. In other words the search is over, to be made right with God with His righteousness does not require sending anyone to heaven or Sheol, that has already been done for us. And because of that, it is actionable for us by tying together the heart and the mouth. And to make certain we know what Paul is saying, it is this same word of faith he has been preaching. It is the salvation of Jew and Gentile, it is the simple fact that by faith, because of His grace, we can be saved. So how do we apply this to be saved.

Romans 10:9–13

“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)

Verse 9 is the key; it is where Paul has been driving to. This righteousness of God which seems so unobtainable by the Law, is totally obtainable by faith in Christ.

It is so so simple, too simple for many. But this is the clearest statement in the word of God on how to be saved.



We see two things coming together here. We boil them into the ABC of salvation. Jesus came to solve our sin problem, that we have already covered in detail in this book. Here Paul is taking us to what it is we must do to be saved, First up, confess with our mouth that 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.” For those of us who are believers, that is a statement of fact. For those who do not know the Lord, it is a statement of fact.

When you come to Jesus by faith in what He did on the cross and proclaim Him Lord, you are doing so voluntarily.

Philippians 2:9–11

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, **that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.” (NKJV)

It is okay though to stand and give this as a proclamation publicly. When Paul says confess with our mouth, Stedman tells us “He means that the mouth is the symbol of the conscious acknowledgment to ourselves of what we believe. It means that we have come to the place where we recognize that Jesus has the right to lordship in our lives. Up to this point we have been lord of our lives.” And now that has changed. We are no longer Lord, Jesus is. When we say He is Lord, He is the Lord of our past and forgives us of those sins we committed in the past. He is the Lord of our present and He through the Holy Spirit is working in us conforming us to Himself. And yes, as Lord of the present, He forgives us the sins we commit in the present.

Jesus being Lord of the present is pretty cool, but He intends for us to be with Him forever, as such, He is also the Lord of our future. He has a future for you and me and it is with Him forever. He promised.

John 14:1–3

““Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.**” (NKJV)

And our Lord, our Savior, is Lord of Life, He is the Lord of death, He is Lord. And He keeps promises.

Matthew 28:18–20

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” (NKJV)

Jesus Christ is Lord over history, He is Lord over the universe, He is Lord over human events. Jesus Christ is Lord. Let me throw one more thing out there for you in this day and age of people trying to use the church and Jesus for their own political purposes. David Gushee clarifies for us.

To affirm that Jesus Christ is Lord is to acknowledge that no political leader, party, flag, nation, or ideology can share lordship over my life. The one who confesses Christ alone as Lord cannot simultaneously affirm utmost loyalty to another idea or person. (Gushee 2007, 57)

When we worry about the state of our nation, Jesus Christ is Lord.



When we worry about war and the things we see in these last days, Jesus Christ is Lord.

Bottom line, Jesus Christ is Lord and we are not.

Romans 10:9

“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;” (NASB 2020)

So now the other part of that connection, the heart. In the Bible, that means the real you and me. It is figurative for our mind. We sit back and now get, yes, He is Lord. I want Him to be my Lord. Do you believe He died on the cross for your sin and then walked out of the grave three days later? Confession flows naturally to belief. Jesus is Lord, Jesus is my Lord, Jesus be my Lord. I believe you died for me and rose again for me.

The moment we believe and confess He is OUR Lord, things happen. He does something for you and me that no one can do for us except Him and pretty much all at the same time. We are made new (2 Corinthians 5:17), fresh, uncontaminated, something new in time and origin. The Greek word for new in 2 Corinthians refers to something recently made of a new kind.

He forgives us of all of our sins sending them as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12), justifying us and declaring us righteous as the righteousness of Jesus Christ is imputed to our account.

The Holy Spirit who has been with us telling us about Jesus, comes into us to live forever and at the same time we become a member of God’s family where we will be living forever.

Living in His family requires obedience so as He makes us at this point, part of His body the church, with the Holy Spirit beginning to operate in us, we are given Jesus Himself, in the person of the Holy Spirit, to live in us, to be the power over evil and sin we need, the power to say no we need, the power over the devil, the world and the flesh, yep that too all in Him. We are now saved.

Our eternity is now secure in Jesus who is waiting, right now for the go get them call from the Father. And that can be at any second.

Do you know Jesus? Have you declared Him to be your Lord accepting the salvation He freely provides?

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 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 the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)



ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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