



## Sermon Text: Romans 10:5-13

Sermon Date: December 20

As Christians it is easy to grow accustomed to the gospel. Like the Sun in the sky, the good news of God's saving love for us in Christ can become so familiar it seems ordinary. One way to feel afresh the light, warmth, and wonder of the Son is by recognizing our hopelessness without him.

In our passage this Sunday, Paul shows us just how dependent upon Jesus we are. In Romans 9:5-13, he continues the contrast between righteousness by "doing" and righteousness by "believing." Pastor Justin emphasized three aspects of saving faith.

- 1. THE WAY OF SAVING FAITH (vv. 5-8):** Paul begins by holding up the unattainable standard of righteousness by doing. To be righteous through Law-keeping, a person must live perfectly by the commands of the Law. If they fail to do so, even at one point, they are cursed (Deut. 27:26; Jas. 2:10). The righteousness by faith however recognizes that Jesus has done all the work. He obtained righteousness through his perfect life. He paid for unrighteousness through his sacrificial death. We are not called to impossible feats, to ascend into the heaven or descend into the abyss. Why? Because Christ has done the work already through his incarnation and resurrection. Instead we are called to believe in Him by responding to the word of faith (the gospel) that has been brought near to us. As Michael Horton says, *"The heart of most religions is good advice, good techniques, good programs, good ideas, and good support systems... But the heart of Christianity is GOOD NEWS. It comes not as a task for us to fulfill, a mission for us to accomplish, a game plan for us to follow with the help of life coaches, but as a report that someone else has already fulfilled, accomplished, followed, and achieved everything for us."*
- 2. THE CONTENT AND PROMISE OF SAVING FAITH (vv. 9-10):** In our age of relativism, it is essential to recognize that saving faith has objective content. We are called to confess and believe certain fixed truths—that Jesus is Lord and that God raised him from the dead. And the wonderful promise of God is that everyone who responds to the gospel in true faith will be saved.
- 3. THE UNIVERSALITY OF SAVING FAITH (vv. 11-13):** Paul ends by stressing that no one is excluded from the gospel's salvation if they believe. Everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved. To demonstrate this truth, Paul stresses that the one Lord Jesus sees no distinction between Jew and Greek when it comes to saving faith. Racially, culturally, and religiously these two groups were divided at every significant point. Yet the gospel is the power of God to everyone who believes (Rom. 1:16). All deeply felt human divisions are of no distinction before God. The gospel is universal in scope and in power to save.

This Christmas may God work among us to feel afresh the light of the gospel and the warmth of God's goodness to us in Christ. In this season of gifts, may we rejoice in the miraculous gift of righteousness by faith.

### Discussion Questions

- 1) What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from this Sunday?
- 2) Has the gospel become ordinary in your heart? Why do we lose our awe of our salvation by faith in Christ?
- 3) How does it make you feel to know that Jesus has done all the work—obtaining righteousness through his life and paying for unrighteousness in his death? How does firmly grasping this glorious truth inspire obedience instead of undercutting it?