

Romans Part 26 (10:5-10:13)

by Erik Olsen

I. INTRO:

--in Romans 10:5-13 Paul continues to drive home the concept of salvation by faith alone for the Jewish mindset while using O.T. Scripture as a framework.

--Paul constantly used the Old Testament to build his case for the gospel and prove that what he taught was nothing new but rather the fulfillment of what God had promised to Israel through the prophets. While on trial before King Agrippa, Paul said, "Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come — that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles." (Acts 26:22-23)

II. "For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, '***The man who does those things shall live by them.***' 6 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) 7 or, '***Who will descend into the abyss?***' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 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)..." (10:5-8)

--"For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, '***The man who does those things shall live by them.***'" (10:5)

--in this verse Paul quotes from Leviticus 18:1-5: "The LORD said to Moses, 2 'Speak to the Israelites and say to them: "I am the LORD your God. 3 You must not do as they do in Egypt, where you used to live, and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. Do not follow their practices. 4 You must obey my laws and be careful to follow my decrees. I am the LORD your God. 5 Keep my decrees and laws, **for the man who obeys them will live by them.** I am the LORD.'"

--side note: the wording in Paul's quote is slightly different from wording in our Old Testament because Paul quoted from the Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Old Testament.

--in Galatians 3:10-14 Paul quotes this same passage, along with a passage from Deuteronomy 27:26 which brings further clarification to his point: "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, '*Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.*'

[in other words, Paul is reminding the Jewish religious leaders that if they are depending on their own ability to follow the law in order to earn salvation then they have to follow the law perfectly or else they are "cursed..."]

11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for '*the just shall live by faith.*'

[quote from Habakkuk 2:4, which Paul also quoted in Romans 1, summing up that fact that the only way to be righteous before God is through faith, rather than following the law perfectly. Through faith, the righteousness of Christ is "credited" to our account (Romans 4:23-24)]

12 Yet the law is not of faith, but '***the man who does them shall live by them.***'

[those who are depending on the law for justification must "live by them..." or, in the words of the Deuteronomy passage, "continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." – that is, follow all points of the law, which nobody is able to do perfectly]

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'),

[because we are unable to follow the law perfectly we are naturally cursed, but Christ became a curse for us – He "has redeemed us from the curse of the law." In other words, before we were saved we were destined for the second death in eternity, but now we are destined for eternal life because Christ died in our place!]

14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, [as Paul explained previously in Romans (Romans 2:28-29; 4:16; 9:6-7) and also in Galatians 3:26-29: "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus... 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."]

that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (Galatians 3:10-14)

--"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) 7 or, '**Who will descend into the abyss?**' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 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)..." (10:6-8)

--Paul quotes from Deuteronomy 30:11-14 where Moses, near the end of his life, reviews the law that God gave Israel at Mt.Sinai: "Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. 12 It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "**Who will ascend into heaven to get it** and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" 13 Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "**Who will cross the sea to get it** and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" 14 No, **the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart** so you may obey it."

--these words were spoken against the backdrop of the monumental event of God delivering Israel from Egypt and communicating the law to them at Mt. Sinai...

--God's instruction for Israel wasn't far away so that it needed to be found, but rather it had already been given to them and was close by – "in your mouth and in your heart."

--Paul quotes Moses shortly after the monumental event of the death and resurrection of Christ and adds comments in parenthesis which apply Moses' words to the present:

--"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)..." (10:8)

--just as God spoke clearly to Israel at Mt. Sinai and therefore they had no excuse to not follow His instructions, so God has spoken clearly through Christ...

--Hebrews 1:1-2: "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son..."

--the ultimate truth doesn't have to be found by human efforts because it is already here... wherever the gospel is preached.

--"*Who will ascend into heaven?* (that is, to bring Christ down from above), or '*Who will descend into the abyss?* (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." (10:6-7)

--"ascend into heaven... descend into the abyss" speaks of rejecting the message of Christ and trying to obtain salvation through our own efforts.

--the false idea of purgatory could be a form of "descend[ing] into the abyss" in order to earn salvation.

--"(that is, to bring Christ down from above [*incarnation*]) (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead [*resurrection*])" speaks of the absurdity of seeking salvation through our own efforts or trying to find the truth apart from Christ... which is like us trying to do what God alone could do through the incarnation and resurrection of Christ.

--no human could ever do what God did in order to save us – "the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places..." (Ephesians 1:19-20)

III. "...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. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, '*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*' 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For '*whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.*'" (Romans 10:9-13)

--the wording in verse 10 almost makes it sound like believing "...unto righteousness" and confession "...unto salvation" are two different things, but verse 9 clarifies that both belief and confession are a part of salvation – "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."

--the essence of "**believe in your heart that God has raised Him [Christ] from the dead**" is believing that Christ has paid for your sins, as His resurrection was the supreme validation of His victory over sin.

--Paul made the rhetorical statement to those who taught that nobody had ever risen from the grave, "For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! ... 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead." (1 Corinthians 15:16-20)

--in the introduction to Romans Paul presented the resurrection of Christ as one of the main evidences that He is the Son of God: "Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." (Romans 1:1-4)

--"**confessing Jesus as Lord**" is an integral part of genuine faith, as Jesus Christ is the Lord of the universe; and we were designed to follow Him...

--because we were designed to follow Him, He is the "Head" of the church – "And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence." (Colossians 1:17-18)

--denying Christ as our Lord is essentially the same as denying our very nature! "In Him all things consist" – every step we take is dependent on Him.... therefore the direction of every step should be dependent on Him!

--God didn't give us some abstract standard to follow, but He became a man and gave us a personal example to follow – "...Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps..." (1 Peter 2:21)

--James 2:18-20: "But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?"

--having faith in Him only as Savior denies His true identity and in all actuality means having faith in a different, make-believe Jesus – "another Jesus" (2 Cor. 11:4) or a "different gospel." (Galatians 1:6)

--every person who ever lived will either know Christ in this life as their Lord and Savior or they will know Him on the day of judgement as the Lord: "For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written: 'As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.'" (Romans 14:10-11)

--"confessing" Him as Lord opposed to simply "believing" that He is Lord signifies that genuine belief is always accompanied by some kind of expression of that belief.

--becoming righteous before God is the essence of salvation – "with the heart one believes **unto righteousness**, and with the mouth confession is made **unto salvation**."

--2 Corinthians 5:21: "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

--Colossians 1:21-22: "And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight..."

--again, one of the central truths of Romans is that the righteousness of Christ is "credited" to our account when we place our faith in Him. (Romans 4:23-24)

--"For *whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.*" (10:13)

--again, you don't have to embark on a long, arduous journey to find salvation, you only have to call on the name of the Lord wherever you are!

--yet so many are like Israel when they first encountered the Promise Land and did not believe in God's plan to give them victory...

--Israel could have enjoyed rest in the Promise Land but instead they spent 40 years in the wilderness until they finally believed.

--many spend their lives trying to find purpose without Christ while all along He is waiting for them to turn to Him and find rest in Him.

--Hebrews compares Israel's unbelief when they first reached the promise land to people's unbelief in Christ (Hebrews 3:7-19) and then goes on to say, "Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest [*rest in the Promise Land was a type, or foreshadow, of rest in Christ*], let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. 3 For we who have believed do enter that rest..." (Hebrews 4:1-3)