

## **Romans 10**

1 Our heart's desire should be joined with prayer. Paul was sent to the Gentiles but he had a great burden for his own people in spite of the persecution he received from them. The burden, 'that they might be saved'. He has just expounded on God choosing whom He will and yet he prays for their salvation. Paul must have believed that would make a difference. 1Tim 2:1

2 Zeal must be based on not just your understanding of God but Truth to have value. Many wars were fought with zeal for God but not based on knowledge. The Pharisees were zealous to keep the Law but forgot the Spirit and intent of the Law. Search the Scriptures then search your heart. God wants us HOT (Is 59:17) but that based on true understanding of his Word. Zeal without knowledge is like that plant that is sown on rocky ground. It soon springs up but has no root and bears no fruit. Mt 13:20,21

3 Here is the whole problem of the Law and Jewish culture. They did not see the key lesson taught in the life of Abraham. They tried to have a righteousness based on their actions. The Psalmist "there is none righteous no not one" caused them to say, "but I will be the first" or "but I will try anyway." They could not extend the hand of faith and trust God that He would provide Himself a sacrifice. We can do the same thing by forgetting the wonder of the cross and comparing ourselves with each other, pat ourselves on the back. Look how good I am doing. If you are righteous it is the righteousness of Christ, not your own. Is 57:12, 64:6, Ps 71:16, Is 51:6,8, Jer 23:5,6

4 We no longer obey the letter but the Spirit, for He has placed his Spirit within us. Instead of a set of guidelines to help us stay on track we are led by love. The focus is off our obedience is on Christ our Master who we seek to serve because of our love for Him. We have gone from a purchased slave to a bondsman. That would not be possible if Christ had not fulfilled the Law completely in our place. Someone finally did keep all the Law - even the Spirit of the Law, and then chose to give that righteousness to any whom would receive it.

5 If you want to get to heaven by keeping the Law then keep all of it. Make it your life- can't be done. Quoted from Lev 18:5.

6 You don't need to go up into heaven to bring Him down to help you. From Deut 30:12 You can't climb the tower of Babel and reach heaven. You can build but you will never make it.

7 You don't need to search the place of the dead/ alternate translation (search the islands of the sea) to find him. From Deut 30:13

8 Because He is near you, knocking on the door of your heart, BELIEVE! From Deut 30:14. Here at the end of the Law, Moses tells them its not what you do but being still and listening to His voice within. Jesus is the Word!

9 Next step on the Roman road: Speak it! Not your flesh or Caesar but Jesus alone is Master of all. Believe He conquered death by the power of God AND YOU WILL BE SAVED! Declare him Lord, and believe in his power for you. Notice it doesn't say that we are to believe He died on the cross for our sins. Why the emphasis on conquering death? His resurrection proves the cross was sufficient! 1Co 15:14-18 Jesus may have died for you but if He did not rise by the power of God how would we know it was an acceptable sacrifice? He was the firstfruit of the resurrection. If He was still in the grave how could we place hope in God. Isn't that what this passage is about? Hope in what God can do not our own works?

10 We believe in our heart and confess with our mouth to God and others that Jesus is our Lord. What we believe should come out of our mouth, as our heart dictates our action. If we are double minded we will act that way. At this time in history this confession could send you to a cross. Asking one to say, 'Caesar is Lord' was the test to see if you belonged to the Jesus' sect. It's not an action, but the acknowledgement of the heart that results in a life change. This is how Abraham was saved. This is how everyone is saved.

11 He quotes Isaiah 28:16. Dismayed, disappointed, act hastily are all translations for 'put to shame'. Trust in Jesus and you will not be sorry. He wont let us down. Anyone? What about a vessel for destruction? See the word 'all' in the next verse. So the prophets declared it is by trust in Him, the chief cornerstone, that we will not be ashamed before God.

12 This is a summary of the whole argument. It doesn't matter your nationality or culture or rule keeping. What matters is your trust in God. Have you called out to Him? Or are you still relying on your goodness?

13 Next step on the Roman road. His name is Jesus. To call on it says, "Jehovah saves", not my works, or my good intentions, just God! He is the God of all and hears all that call on Him. Quoting Joel 2:32 This is the simplest verse about salvation. The Romans think about people as either enlightened Romans or barbarians. Then there are those tools called slaves. If you are of any importance you are a master over a number of slaves you possess. That makes you a lord over your people. To call on the name of your lord meant to appeal to his character and standing in society. If my master is Caesar and I act in his name, everyone took second place. Call on the name of the Lord God, means I recognize I am a servant. It does not mean that if I say "Jesus" real loud, I am saved. This was first written by Joel who did not know to call on the particular name of Jesus. He was referring to Adonay - the Hebrew for Sovereign God. In

the New Testament it is applied to Jesus and God. It does mean a heart cry to all He is and represents and that includes surrendering myself as His servant. After the resurrection Christians no longer called any man 'lord' but reserved the title for God or Jesus Christ.

14 To call out to him you must first believe He exists. How can you do that if no one ever told you about Him? Ro 1:20 see verse 18 of this chapter. Share the good news every time God opens a door for you to tell others. Who preached to Abraham? The Holy Spirit can do the job but God wants to include you!

15 Isaiah 52:7 Want to have pretty feet? Let God send you to someone who needs to hear the good news. It is said that the messenger could be spotted by his unique running style from a distance. The watchman could tell if the news was good or bad by the way he ran. How are you running? When they see you coming can they tell you have good news to share? Paul was sent out in this manner with Barnabas Acts 13:1-3

16 Isaiah 53:1 In fact it sounds like few will. The verses that precede that verse tell of the suffering servant. The Apostle is again verifying the rejection by the Jewish people to prophecies of the Messiah.

17 We share what He said and people come to faith. His words were given Him from the Father. Sometimes He speaks directly to the heart. It can be through a person or without a person as we see in the next verse. But remember, it is his Word not ours. Interesting spin the NCV puts on it. The word is the report or testimony. When we hear of the testimony of Jesus (ie: his death and resurrection) what He did for us, it produces faith in us.

18 Paul returns to the missionary of creation.(1:20) Ps 19:4

19 Deut 32:21 They had so many prophecies that the salvation of the Gentile was coming.

20 Isaiah 65:1 Paul is quoting up a storm, and driving home a point. Salvation is by faith for all who will call out to God. We have the messenger of the Gospel, but we also have God revealing Himself, and not just to those who call. Once they perceive the revelation they must decide.

21 Isaiah 65:2 There was a clear message in the words of Moses and the prophets that God was going to reach out to the Gentiles, and that Israel would harden its heart. They were always challenged to be different from their murmuring rebellious forefathers. God had a lot more in mind for the people of Israel than disobedience and obstinence. He wanted to bless the world through them. He did in Jesus. He holds out his hands to us for the same purpose.