

FPFWC Christian Development



Faith and Salvation

July 2021

Summer Quarter

July 31, 2021

Lesson #5 – Salvation Available for All

SCRIPTURE TEXT –Romans 10:5-17

Key Verse - Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.—Romans 10:13

ICE BREAKERS –

1. Why is it essential to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead?
2. Why is both believing with the heart and confessing with the mouth important for salvation?

LESSON BACKGROUND

In Romans 9 Paul introduced a new subject in his letter: the place of the Jews in God's redemptive plan. His discussion sprang from his personal passion for his people (he calls the Jews his "brethren" and his "kinsmen according to the flesh" (9:3) and his desire that they know the Christ who has done so much for him (9:1–5).

That concern continues in Romans 10, which begins with Paul writing, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved." The apostle described his fellow Jews as zealous, yet lacking knowledge. Their desire to follow the Law of Moses and thereby pursue "their own righteousness" (10:3) was ill-founded, founded, now that "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (10:4). A new way, the way of salvation—by grace through faith—was open for all to accept. But, sadly, many of Paul's "kinsmen according to the flesh" (9:3) rejected it.

Paul then proceeded to contrast righteousness based on keeping the law with righteousness available through faith.

LESSON COMMENTARY –

10:5–13. In v. 5, Paul alluded to Lv 18:5 (see the note there), and with it censures unbelieving Israel (see the similar point of allusions to Lv 18:5 in Neh 9:29; Ezk 18:9; 20:11). He indicates that if one insists on establishing his righteousness with God by keeping the law, then he will live (have eternal life) *only* if he actually keeps the law. But Paul already demonstrated the futility of this in chaps. 1–3. In vv. 6–8, Paul cited Dt 9:4 and 30:11–14, where Moses commanded the people to obey the Lord. As in Moses' day when God graciously took the initiative to make the law readily available to the Jewish people so they could obey it, so also in Paul's day He made the gospel accessible as well. Verses 9–10 are

sometimes cited to support the idea that one must publicly and verbally confess Christ in order to be saved. Confessing is a result of true saving faith and an evidence of it (cf. 1Tm 6:12; Ti 1:16), and lack of confession may indicate lack of salvation. Much of the apostolic preaching included an emphasis on Christ's resurrection (cf. Ac 2:14–40; 3:12–26; 10:34–43; 13:16–41; 17:16–31), and it is faith *in a resurrected Christ* that saves one (**believe ... that God raised Him**, v. 9). In vv. 11–13, Paul cited Is 28:16 again (cf. 9:33), and expanded on the implications of “whoever believes” in vv. 12–13. In v. 13, Paul cited JI 2:32, emphasizing the universal availability of the gospel.

10:14–17. These verses ask questions that ultimately receive an affirmative answer in v. 18 (**Indeed they have**). Regarding the need to get the gospel to the Jewish people, messengers have been recruited (v. 14c), sent out (v. 15a), the word of faith has been preached (v. 14b), the message has been heard (v. 14b, 17, 18), and the message has been understood (vv. 19–20). So, what is the problem? The problem is, they did not believe it (vv. 16–17). Paul's point is that God cannot be blamed for not doing enough to get the gospel to the Jewish people. The problem, at least in chap. 10, resides with Israel's refusal to believe the gospel. Romans 10:14–15 are often used as motivational verses to bolster world evangelization, but the context makes it clear that Paul had in mind the Jewish people, and that, even in his day, the gospel had made extensive inroads into Jewish communities throughout the Mediterranean world. But the mission to the Jewish people has not been completed.

LESSON NUGGET – Salvation is by faith, and faith comes “by hearing....the word of God” (v.17). But unbelieving sinners (including Israel) cannot hear unless we tell them. God needs people with beautiful feet to carry the gospel to the lost. (v.15)

Sources: *Moody Bible Commentary, Standard Lesson Commentary, The Essential Everyday Bible Commentary and Wiersbe Expository Outlines on the New Testament*