

011424 Romans 10

Some of this Romans study has been in pretty deep waters. But we have kept our head above the waves of despair blown by Satan's demons. This wonderful 10th chapter gives us a life vest by reviewing what we have studied with a distinct overtone of the presence and permanence of God's love. It is a message of encouragement for our time. It is a reminder of sanctification or spiritual growth and maturity. As we live, learn and practice the Holiness for which Christ died and was resurrected, the enduring patience and long suffering of God becomes an unmistakable blessing upon which to feast:

Romans 10:1 *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.* Do you recognize what a magnanimously noble statement Paul is making? Philippians 4 from the NIV gives us a further insight into just who Paul had become after his conversion: Philippians 4:11-12 *I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*

Tradition records that Paul died at the hands of the Romans by beheading, and it is tragic that his Hebrew heritage were equally satisfied with his execution because he became a Christian and in their view abandoned his Hebrew heritage. I am saddened to acknowledge his fate would be equally tenuous in our world today.

That gives us some background of Paul as he composed this epistle: Romans 10:1 *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.* Paul's words are simply an echo of the message and purpose of Jesus coming to earth for the redemption of mankind.

Paul's words are a clarion call and personal witness example for all persons of every generation of the passion that a Christian may have in their soul to be a witness and example to their circle of acquaintance and influence in their culture of God.

2. Romans 10:2-3 *For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.*

Though this is spoken directly to the Jewish nation and their stubborn adherence to the Old Testament scrolls and refusal to accept Jesus as the Messiah, there is an application for us: It is a dangerous and volatile life to have zeal without knowledge. As some sage has said "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing." An understanding of life that is based on partial or completely void of the gospel of Jesus has no hope or concept of what eternal life promises. Which translates into totally missing the life for which a person is created and gifted. Existing a few decades on earth for the American Dream, or any such passion is a satanic counterfeit for the Christian benefit of knowing and living for Jesus and the glory of God for all eternity.

Paul continues explaining the status of his physical heritage that his heart desire is for them to become a part his spiritual inheritance. Romans 10:4 *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.* Paul had - before his conversion been a part of the Jewish culture that venerated the letter of the law and established and enforced that letter of the law as god! Now he proclaims loudly and clearly that Jesus Christ ended the letter of the law and entrusted the truth of the intent of the law for Righteous and joyous living. The New Testament can be found in some form in the Old Testament, plus so much additional wonderful information for contentment and peace.

Our lesson is to be sure we have not simply replaced the Jewish Old Testament Law with our own version of Gentile New Testament Law casting a shadow on the love of God.

Romans 10:5 *For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them."* i.e. there was nothing wrong with the law, nor the New Testament instruction - but it was, and is the intent and application of it's content that was wanting and was misinterpreted under the cheerful compromise inspiration of satan.

3. Romans 10:6 *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):* The person of faith understands that by the gift and giving of the Holy Spirit that God’s presence in our lives with His words of righteousness are ever present and available to the humble servant of the Lord after their confession of and commitment to faith. Here is a practical application: The more we learn and apply righteousness in our lives, the more we are given to learn and apply that righteousness purpose in our lives for the privilege of having our names recorded in the book of life, AND the more we identify with and are bathed in God’s love and mercy.

Paul reviews again the fundamental gospel message and it’s progress of their lives. If you are a Christian you have been given to understand this instruction: Romans 10:9 *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.* That is why we offer an invitation at the end of every service - just in case someone hears or understands for the first time their eternal future is based on their personal decision.

Paul further clarifies by saying: Romans 10:10-11 *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.”* When the final judgment is conferred – the redeemed soul will be taken to glory///– while those who refused that distinction will be put to shame, indescribable shame...

Romans 10:12-13 *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.”* Listen carefully and understand completely: God shows no favoritism, in fact it is impossible in His character to do so. All persons, male or female of the created human species are equally desired by God and provided for in eternity

4. based on their decision and motivation. *“whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”* I pray often for the person who said “God doesn’t want me and the devil won’t have me.” Nothing on earth could be further from the truth. Jesus died for that persons sins and as the scripture says in 2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

Now Paul, as the old saying goes teaches, “this is now where the rubber hits the road:” Romans 10: 14-15a *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15a And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:* Ouch -ooch! Paul stomped on my toes so hard they feel like they are swelling in my boots!

In context it seems to me that the word “preach” does not mean some bible college or seminary graduate, but it means a graduate of the waters of Christian Baptism – that word “preacher” means everyone of us who carry the claim of being a Christian, anyone and everyone united with Jesus and infused by the Holy Spirit!!!! Romans 10:14-15 New Life Version *14 But how can they call on Him if they have not put their trust in Him? And how can they put their trust in Him if they have not heard of Him? And how can they hear of Him unless someone tells them? 15 And how can someone tell them if he is not sent? The Holy Writings say, “The feet of those who bring the Good News are beautiful.”*

Some of my excuses over the years have been, I don’t have time, I don’t know what to say, it might make them not like me or get mad at me, nobody ever asks and a whole bunch more excuses that I have a hunch you could also add to the list. Those are excuses – they are not reasons. (Jon I Erickson Tada or whomever???)

But with those thought in mind the rest of verse 15 makes me laugh: Romans 10:15b

5. *“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”* In SS we are learning about Jesus as shepherd and looking to the feet of Jesus for direction. What a beautiful metaphor for us to copy, oh you of pretty feet.

Paul now prepares us for the things we are going to be reminded of in his later epistles: Romans 10:16 *But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “LORD, who has believed our report?”* Paul says not everyone who receives Jesus obeys by witnessing and righteous living and quotes Isaiah 53:1 in support of his position.

The reality commentary is that Moses knew it in 1500 BC, that Isaiah was right in 750 BC, Paul was on target in 50 AD and the truth reality is with us in 2024 AD. You see satan and his co-conspirators against the righteousness of God are as active and intrusive into lives today as they ever have been, and perhaps even more so trying to convince you that God is not really present in your body/soul/spirit to lead your life purpose/ministry.

Paul’s conclusion to this segment of his argument for faith through righteousness is summarized in the closing verses of chapter 10. Romans 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* Faith is worked for to be acquired, faith is not genetically nor generically inherited but by being exposed to and acquisition of the singular source of truth on earth – the Bible.

Verse **18** *But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: “Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.”* All mankind of all ages has seen and experienced the reality and truth of God and many heard the truth the gospel message in their own language. But look in verse **19-20** *But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: “I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation.”* **20** *But Isaiah is very bold and says: “I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me.”* The truth is present but acknowledgment of that truth continues to be small-scale

6. even though verse 21 *But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."* The revelation of God has always been veiled by Satan with his ever present discouragement, disappointment, despondent, destructive tools. And that is where Meeker Christian Church and everyone whom the Holy Spirit escorts through those doors comes into the picture, to share and disseminate and be an example of every truth of God we are capable to acquire and practice in our daily lives.

For this skeptical world the truth in God's word is that we are in the season of the return of Jesus to take up to heaven with Him Christians while leaving behind the skeptics of every stripe to face the events of Revelation. The reason is often taught that the reason that "rapturous" event has not already occurred is to give time for Christians to present Jesus to our loved ones, friends, neighbors and any others to whom we are given access so they will be included in the ascension into heaven.

Paul, the most prolific writer in terms of number of New Testament books wrote for all of us to assimilate plainly and confidently John 10:10 *The thief does not **come** except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.***

Our invitation song is if you are not sure whether or not you are a soldier in the front line of the Christian righteousness destined for heaven, then I invite you to come to the front and speak to me about how to become a Christian...

Romans 10:1

NIV Philippians 4:11-12

Romans 10:1

Romans 10:2-3

Romans 10:4

Romans 10:5

Romans 10:6

Romans 10:9

Romans 10:10-11

Romans 10:12-13

2 Peter 3:9

Romans 10: 14-15a

Romans 10:14-15 New Life Version

Romans 10:15b

Romans 10:16

Romans 10:17

Romans 10:18

Romans 10:19-20

Romans 10:21

John 10:10