

# The Purpose of West Hampden Baptist Church: The Evangelization of the Sinner (World Evangelism Begins at Home)

*Romans 10:1-13*

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Introduction: Several weeks ago we considered a Mission Statement for our church: “We are to have a genuine commitment to the Great Commandment & to the Great Commission.” Based on such, we have a Statement of Purpose: “West Hampden Baptist Church exists to exalt the Savior (our worship), to evangelize the sinner (our witness), & to edify the saint (our wisdom).” Last week we highlighted the exaltation of the Savior by looking at the subject of worship. We noted that true worship acclaims the right Person, accomplishes the right purpose, & accepts the right pattern. Last Sunday night we began an examination of the 5 elements of worship: preparation, praise, prayer, presentation, & preaching; as we looked at preparation & praise. This morning we will consider the second part of our purpose statement, the evangelization of the sinner. Note with me here in our text the truth that world evangelism begins at home. Paul tells us that salvation is possible when one rejects his own self-established righteousness by works & receives God’s established righteousness by faith.

## I. The concern of a saint for those that are lost (:1).

### A. His purpose - *“my heart's desire”* >

#### 1. He wants to see his nation saved:

a. *“Desire”* – “good pleasure; benevolence; kind feeling.”

b. This same word is used in Ephesians 1:5, 9 & II Thessalonians 1:11 (*“good pleasure”*).

#### 2. He wishes he could be accursed from Christ for his nation:

a. See Romans 9:1-3.

b. Compare Acts 26:28-29.

Summary: “Paul meant to assure his brethren according to the flesh, that all his feelings towards them were kind, & that he earnestly desired their salvation” (Hodge). [See Brainerd’s “One Desire” – What do you desire the most? What concerns you the most?]

### B. His prayer - his heart's **devotion** >

1. He prayed literally: *“...for Israel unto salvation.”*

2. He prayed earnestly & fervently to that end.

Application: Is this our burden for the lost? Illustrate: “The Soul Winner’s Prayer.”

## II. The condition of a society that depends upon self-righteousness (:2-7).

### A. They were religious but lost (:2-3) [All people are “religious” (cf. Acts 17:22); they will worship something. Even the atheist “worships” – even if it is only himself.] >

#### 1. They had religious **enthusiasm** - *“a zeal of God”* - They were sincere:

a. “Good” zeal > John 2:17, used of Christ [“Zeal, when rightly directed, however ardent, is humble & amiable” (Hodge).]

b. “Evil” zeal > Galatians 1:14, used of Saul [“When its object is evil, it is proud, censorious, & cruel” (Hodge).]

#### 2. They had religious **effort** - *“going about to establish”* - They were self-righteous (cf. “cults”):

a. They sought to justify themselves in the sight of God.

b. They were in contrast to Paul’s position – Philippians 3:9, *“And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.”* [Illustrate: “To Late To Do It”]

B. They were rebellious and lost (:3-7) >

1. If you are not under **submission**, you are in rebellion:
  - a. Society in general – Romans 1:18-32.
  - b. The Jews in particular – Romans 3:9-20 (:18, “no fear of God before their eyes.”).
2. If you **surrender** to Christ, you recognize He is the “end” of the law (:4). [“do” (:3), “done” (:4)]
  - a. “The law points toward Christ & culminates in Him. Believers in Christ cease using the law as a means to establish their own righteousness, for the law itself points to faith in Christ” (Schreiner).
  - b. Christ brings the law to its termination by fulfilling it. He abolished it > Ephesians 2:15 & cf. Colossians 2:14 [therefore those who believe are justified.]

Summary: John 3:18 > You don’t make a decision to reject Christ. You have already if you have not received Him.

III. The conversion of a sinner who receives God’s righteousness (:8-13).

A. Salvation is personal (:8-9) >

1. Individual **responsibility** (cf. John 3:7):
  - a. Note the second person, personal pronouns > “thy, thine, thou.”
  - b. Now you must make a personal, individual decision (neither by nor for someone else).
2. Individual **accountability** (cf. Romans 14:12):
  - a. See Hebrews 9:27, “...but after this the judgment.”
  - b. Compare Revelation 20:11-15, “...according to their works.”

B. Salvation is plain (:9-10) >

1. The **object** of faith - Jesus Christ:
  - a. You must believe Jesus is Lord – He has authority to reign (contrast, “Caesar is Lord”).
  - b. You must believe Jesus is living – He has power to redeem.
2. The **offer** of faith – cf. John 1:12, “received” – “believe”:
  - a. Faith > Forsaking All I Trust Him.
  - b. Trust > To Rely Upon Someone Totally.  
[Illustrate: “A Person May Go To Heaven...”]
3. The **outcome** of faith
  - a. There is the confession of sin (“confess” – “name the same” – agree with God).
  - b. There is the cleansing from sin.

C. Salvation is public (:10) >

1. Confess with one’s mouth.
2. Witness publicly by baptism.

D. Salvation is possible (:11-13) >

1. There is no **disappointment** (:11) – “not ashamed” – salvation is assured, no need for doubt.
2. There is no **difference** (:12) – “distinction” (cf. Romans 3:22).
3. There is no **delay** (:13) – salvation at the point of one’s call.

Conclusion: How about you this morning? Are you saved? Consider the condition of our society, which may well be your condition. Are you religious, but lost? All of your religious enthusiasm & effort is not enough to save your soul. You must be born again. Salvation can be yours today, because it is personal, it is plain, it is public, & it is possible. Will you respond to His offer of salvation?

If you are saved, will you share this Gospel message with someone this week? Someone wrote this about our Christian responsibility: “We are found, to find another; We are told, to tell another; We are won, to win another; We are saved, to save another.” Remember, world evangelism begins at home. Salvation is possible to those who reject their own self-righteousness of works & receive God’s righteousness by faith. Consider this prayer: “Lead me to some soul today, O teach me, Lord, just what to say! Friends of mine are lost in sin & cannot find their way. Few there are that seem to care, & few there are who pray; Melt my heart & fill my life, give me one soul today” (Will Houghton).