

## Opportunity to Share – (January 20, 2021 - Upper Room)

### Read: Romans 10:1-15

**10** Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. <sup>2</sup> For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. <sup>3</sup> Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

<sup>5</sup> Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them."<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>6</sup> But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'"<sup>[a]</sup> (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup> "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'"<sup>[a]</sup> (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup> But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,"<sup>[a]</sup> that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: <sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>14</sup> How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? <sup>15</sup> And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"<sup>[a]</sup>

**Read the January 20 installment in the Upper Room**  
**Lesson background:**  
**based on the above scripture**

Source: [www.christianity.com/bible/commentary](http://www.christianity.com/bible/commentary)

- Paul recognizes that the Israelites had zeal for God but it was misguided. They focused on their law-keeping, not their faith from their heart
  
- This is a perfect description of Paul himself before his conversion. Saul of Tarsus was a notorious persecutor of Christians before Jesus confronted him on the road to Damascus ([Acts 9:1-20](#)).
  
- People cannot come to Jesus without the right information about the gospel, but information alone is not enough to save anyone. There must be a radical *submission* to the righteousness of God, putting away our own righteousness
  
- We do not gain God's righteousness by works. Instead, we gain it by *confessing* and *believing* in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
  
- "We believe everything which the Lord Jesus has taught, but we must go a step further, and trust him. It is not even enough to believe in him, as being the Son of God, and the anointed of the Lord; but we must believe on him... The faith that saves is not believing certain truths, nor even believing that Jesus is a

Savior; but it is resting on him, depending on him, lying with all your weight on Christ as the foundation of your hope. Believe that he can save you; believe that he will save you; at any rate leave the whole matter of your salvation with him in unquestioning confidence. Depend upon him without fear as to your present and eternal salvation. This is the faith which saves the soul.” (Spurgeon)

### **Daily application from this lesson:**

- We should all consider being like Paul, sharing the Gospel with all so all can know Jesus
- As I face my daily struggles, I will rest on Christ, depend on Christ, put all my weight on Christ as the foundation of my hope.
- It’s like exercise...sharing my faith will strengthen my faith.

### **Reflection:**

1. Do you find it intimidating to talk openly about your faith?
2. Describe a time when you felt a prompting from God. How did you respond?
3. Have you ever felt like you are unequipped to share your faith? Do you feel like you need ALL the answers before you do?
4. What are some new habits you can begin that will help you share God’s love more effectively?

## **Thought for the week:**

I will look for opportunities to tell others about God's greatness and love.