

Romans 10:5~10

Are you right with God? I don't think anyone would argue, that is the single, most important question we will answer this side of eternity. When we leave this world, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS! Everything else in this life, will be futile and vain in light of standing before God, giving an account of our lives... I say that to emphasize the importance of understanding "How the bible" says, that we are made right with God. There's a lot of different beliefs out there, but there is only ONE WAY to be right with God. It is what Paul refers to here as the "*Righteousness of God.*"

¹Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. ²For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. ³For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto **the righteousness of God.**

Israel was "*ignorant*" of the *righteousness of God*, the way a man is made right with God. I believe that the same is true of many in our churches today across the land. I believe that many have misunderstood the "*righteousness*" the gospel proclaims, and how it is attained.

It is here in this section, that Paul explains the difference between "*works righteousness*" and "*faith righteousness.*" Verses 5~8 are really a continuance of what he said in 9:30~33, seeking to explain how it was that the Gentiles had attained righteousness, while "*Much*" of the nation Israel were still under the judgment and wrath of God.

^{9:30}*What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. ³¹But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath **not attained** to the law of righteousness.*

Gentiles is a reference to those outside the commonwealth of Israel, (*those who did not possess or adhere to the written law given through Moses.*) Here Paul declares that the Gentiles, who were without the law, who never sought righteousness "*by the law,*" have attained righteousness, been made right with God. But Israel, who had the law, and diligently tried to keep the law, to live in a way that was pleasing to God, did not attain righteousness, they were *not right* with God. **Why not?** *How can that be?*

³²***Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;***

Israel's **downfall**, the reason Israel "**fell short**" of attaining righteousness was, they sought it from a "*works perspective*" rather than a "*faith perspective.*" While the Gentiles, by faith received Christ.

Here in verses 5~8, Paul is seeking to explain the difference between "*works righteousness*" and "*faith righteousness.*" It's important that Israel understand how "*saving righteousness*" is attained. Israel had misunderstood this truth, and was ignorant of God's saving righteousness. So here, Paul points to writings of Moses, to exhort to Israel that Moses taught "*righteousness by faith!*" He points to two O.T passages...

(Vs 5) is a quote taken from Leviticus 18:5...

(Vs 6~8) is a quote taken from Deuteronomy 30:12~14...

Both of which are found in the first five books of the bible, the "*Books of Moses.*" In Hebrew, these first five books are called the *Tannak*, the *Penteauch*, or the *Torah*, which translated simply means the "*Books of the Law*". Paul is declaring to Israel, what the Law says about the righteousness of the Law! How the Law says that "*true, saving righteousness*" **is attained.** Israel had rejected Christ because they misunderstood what the Law said about how righteousness is attained! As Paul puts it in verse 3, "*they*

being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their "own righteousness," have not submitted themselves to the "righteousness of God."

Israel's "downfall" was, they sought righteousness by the deeds of the law, rather than by faith!

⁵For Moses describes the righteousness which is of the law...

That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

The *emphasis* is on the "attaining of Righteousness" by the Law. His *point* is...

The "Righteousness" found in the Law, is only attained by the "doing" of them...

It's very important to keep in mind, that this is what the bible is referring to when it says, that "Works" does not save us. NO ONE will be saved by the "deeds of the Law," by "doing" what the Law says to do.

It is referred to as *works*, because it is based on "your doing." This kind of righteousness comes about by "*human effort*." There is a "*righteous standard*," and we acquire that standard by "doing" it. Which is impossible... Reason being, its not by "*breaking the law*" that we become sinners, but rather, we are already sinners. The law was given to simply reveal that to us.

The scripture clearly teaches that NO ONE will be saved by the "works" of the Law. But listen closely, that does not mean there are no "works." I believe, there is a lot of *confusion* concerning the message of the gospel. I'm very concerned that many have believed a "*false gospel*," one that cannot save! I'm afraid that many, have misunderstood the message of Christ to mean, that man's disobedience to God is no big deal. They have misunderstood the message of Grace to mean that...

Since no one can live up to the righteous standards of God's Law, that "*obedience to God*" is no longer a requirement for salvation...

God forbid! In no way does the gospel say such a thing! By saying that "*Christ is the end of the law for righteousness...*" in no way is he suggesting that one can live "*lawless, disobedient lives*." That obedience to God is no longer an issue. God forbid! But rather, what Paul is saying is, "*Obedience to the law*" is not obedience at all!

There is a *form* of "Obedience," a *form* of righteousness...but its only "*self-righteousness*," produced by "*Man's efforts*" in the Law. It is "*superficial obedience*," it is only *external obedience*, and does not involve the heart! Paul declares "*such righteousness*" is not enough to save a man from God's wrath!

The "*Call of Christ*" is that "*man*" repent of his inward rebellion and yield their lives to Him.

(Mt. 16) ²¹From that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. ²²Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. ²³But he turned, and said unto Peter, **Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.**

²⁴Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**

²⁵For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. ²⁶For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

²⁸Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

Listen very closely; it is clear...God will judge man "*according to his works*." In no way does "*faith righteousness*" teach that there are "*no works...*" According to James, if there are no works, then there is no faith, "*Faith without works is dead*." There MUST be works...point is, its just not the "*works of the*

Law!” The “*works of Faith*” are those produced by the man who yields his life in service to Christ, not the Law.

If a man “*saves his life*” here...won’t that be obvious by living for himself?

If a man “*loses his life here, to live for Christ*”...won’t that be obvious as well?

We can only live unto one of the two, either unto God, or unto self... Therefore, God will be just in judging man by his works, for the life lived will reveal whether he has “*heeded the call of the gospel*” and lived to God or rejected Christ, and chosen to live to Self! It speaks to the “*Will*” of the man. What “*will*” is he living too? Has he rejected God’s and lived to his own, or rejected his own to live for Gods will.

Listen, if God were to “*judge*” you this day, by what you have “*lived too*” for the past month, what would be his verdict? To have a knowledge of Christ and yet continue to live for self is self-destruction, regardless of how “*outwardly clean*” you may live! We must remember, the law is not the standard...Christ is!

The “*Call of Christ*” is for man to repent of his “*inward rebellion*” against God, and yield his life to Christ. Having made the call clear, to yield one’s life to Christ...he ask a question that every man better seriously consider...²⁶*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

What if you decide to keep your life, and live to self... What if you do that, and lets say you gained everything your heart desired, even the whole world... Is that worth losing your soul? If you refuse to repent and yield your life to Christ, and chose to live your life for the here and now...what will you give God to spare your soul?

Are you right with God? The answer to that, is determined by what we are living too! Every one of us, every individual in the world is doing one of two things... Either “*Living unto Christ,*” or “*Dead in his Sins!*” Israel lived lives that were “*governed*” by the Law, resulting in a form of righteousness. But to no avail, because it was external only, it was a result their works in the Law. Such righteousness will not save, for God seeks the heart of the man! God is not interested that men “*do right,*” but that they “*be right!*”

And “*Being right*” with God is not based on “*performance*”...but ...“*position!*” Though Israel was zealous in the law, diligent to live according to the law, their heart was far from God! That’s why the Law was given to Israel to manifest that they too, like the Gentles, possessed “*rebellious hearts*” towards God.

The preaching of the gospel is a call for men to “*Repent,*” to turn from that rebellion and surrender their hearts to God! Christ has made salvation possible, by “His Works” on the cross... Now he offers forgiveness to sinners who turn from living their lives to Self...and live their lives unto God!

So, in verses 6~8...Paul calls Israel to ***repent, to turn from the law*** and turn to Christ!
⁶*But the righteousness which is of faith speaks on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)* ⁷*Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)* ⁸***But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;***

Don’t miss the point Paul is trying to make...

⁶*Who shall ascend into heaven?...* ⁷*Or, Who shall descend into the deep?* The emphasis here, concerns what it takes ***to attain*** salvation! It speaks of the “*efforts*” of men. ⁶*Who shall ascend into*

heaven?...⁷Or, *Who shall descend into the deep*...are in reference to the “*great lengths*” men will strive to attain right standing with God. They refer to the “*distance*” men will go to acquire salvation! *Heaven* is the upper limit, while the *deep* refers to the lower limit. Paul points to this passage to say that Moses himself taught Israel that it was not by men’s works in the law, but by the surrender of the heart!

Look what Paul says...⁸***But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;*** Paul uses this passage in Deuteronomy to confirm that righteousness is not by works, but by faith. That man should not trust in his works in the law, but rather Christ works on the cross...

Notice, Paul alters Deuteronomy 30 somewhat... Rather than alter, he’s claiming the fulfillment of Moses’ questions. **He answers the WHO!** Who will ascend into Heaven and get it, Who will descend into the Deep and get it... Paul claims that Christ did just that! Christ brought salvation to us from Heaven, it speaks of his incarnation! And Christ supplied salvation to us, when God raised him from the Deep, the grave! **He’s done all the work**...as Moses said, we must simply believe in our hearts!

In verses 9~10, he exhorts Israel...⁹*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, (Confess Christ incarnate) and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, (Resurrection) thou shalt be saved.* ¹⁰*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Listen, I don’t want you to be “*ignorant*” **as was the case** with Israel...

What we do with this “*Jesus*” will determine our FATE...Man has but one of two choices...
Repent of his rebellion against God **in his heart**, by yielding his life to Christ...**or DIE in his sin!**

- We learn from Israel that “*External*” obedience to God’s law **is not enough!**
- That **kind of righteousness will NOT SAVE a man!**

I’m extremely concerned, that the same is true of “**MANY**” in our churches today... Those who are willing to acknowledge the bible as God’s word, willing to obey God’s law...**just not God himself.** They attended church; they try to do what’s right. They’d never kill anybody, or steal from anyone, and they’d never cheat on their spouse... **But even so, that kind of righteousness will not save a man!**

Listen, God had their... “*head, hands and their feet*...” **Just not their “hearts!”**

The call of the gospel is to **yield your “heart”** to God!

Believing is not having a “*knowledge of Jesus*”...Jesus in the “*head*” helps no one... Actually, Having a “*knowledge of Jesus*” will only hold you more accountable... As Paul said back in Romans 1:18, ¹⁸*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

Jesus in the “*head*” helps no one... Quite the contrary, having a “*knowledge of Jesus*” will only hold you more accountable. For a man to “*know*” the truth of Jesus, and continue to live in rebellion against God, in your heart, rejecting the Lordship of Jesus over their lives, to reject the creator, in order to live their lives to themselves, will invoke the wrath of God on that man!