

Romans 10:5~8, part 2 (Deuteronomy 30)

As we read this section, the context is that of “*Righteousness...*” 11 times Paul mentions that term. Righteousness is a word not used very much today... Righteousness simply means “*right living.*”

I’m afraid that many, have misunderstood the message of Christ to mean, that man’s disobedience to God is no big deal... Since the gospel declares that no one can live up to the righteous standards of God’s Law, some understand that to mean that “*obedience to God*” is no longer a requirement for salvation... God forbid! According to scripture, it is the “*Unrighteousness of Men*” that invokes the judgment and wrath of God! Right? That’s the whole point of the book of Romans...

¹⁸*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

Contrary to what many are proclaiming... God demands righteousness! It is vital that men understand what righteousness is, and how it is attained! I’m concerned that many, (like Israel) have misunderstood what it is and who it is attained. Here he describes “*two kinds*” of righteousness, that produced by the law, and that which is of faith. Here in this passage, Paul seeks to explain the difference between the two, which is vital to understand.

In Romans 10:5~8, Paul quotes first from Leviticus 18, then from Deuteronomy 30. He does so, in seeking to explain to Israel, how “*true, saving righteousness*” is attained. Paul had just declared in 9:30~32, that the Gentiles “*had attained*” righteousness with God, while Israel had “*failed to attain*” righteousness with God. In 9:32, Paul explains WHY Israel “*fell short*” and did not attain...

³²*Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law.*

Israel’s problem was not with their efforts to “*live righteous*” before God, but rather *their approach* to “*live righteous*” before God. They “*sought righteousness*” by the works of the Law, rather than by faith...

Here in Romans 10, Paul seeks to explain the difference by pointing to two O.T. passages from the “*Books of the Law.*” He quotes first from Leviticus 18, then from Deuteronomy 30...

(Lev. 18) ⁵*Ye shall therefore keep **my** statutes, and **my** judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.*

A very simple, straightforward statement...

God offers *Life* to all who will submit themselves to “*His ways.*”

A promise that Israel greatly misunderstood. The nation Israel had sought *to attain* this promise by works and not by faith. Simply meaning, that Israel thought that this “*life*” came as a result of “*keeping*” or “*doing*” what the Law said. That’s why its called works, because *it is earned*... But as zealous and diligent as Israel was in keeping the law, they had not attained unto LIFE! They would not receive the fulfillment of the promise. **Why?** Because they sought it by “*Works*” rather than by “*Faith.*”

In Romans 10:6, Paul says... ⁶*But the righteousness which is of faith speaks on this wise...*

In other words, the “*Life*” promised by God, was not acquired by the “*works of men*” based on the Law. But rather, the “*Life*” promised by God was acquired by “*Faith.*”

To explain what he means, Paul refers to (Deuteronomy 30:12~14).

Its important to know that the context here is the “*covenant*” God was making with Israel, which he began back in 29:1. Here in chapter 30, the term “*commandment*” is a reference to the terms and conditions of

this covenant. As it is with all covenants, or contracts, there must be two parties, and each one must agree to the terms and conditions of that contract. It speaks to the requirements that Israel must keep in order to fulfill their part of the covenant.

Keeping that in mind, let us look to Deuteronomy 30:11...¹¹For **this commandment** which I command thee this day..." The term "Commandment" refers the obligations of Israel, in reference to the covenant. It speaks of a "Divine Command" from God... Here, Moses was giving Israel a "Holy Commandment" from God, a commandment that they were ordered to keep, or suffer the consequences. A "Divine Law" as it were, if broken, would bring a curse, but if kept, would bring blessing.

Go back to verse 8~10, where Moses announces God's blessings on those obedient to *this commandment*.

⁸And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the LORD, and do all his commandments which I command thee this day. ⁹And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers:

(Vs 10) Listen very closely...the promise of blessings were contingent on "*their obedience*"...

¹⁰**If** thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

God's promise to Israel was, He would provide for them, protect them, bless their land, bless the yield of their crops, etc...if they'd did what he asked. It's not hard to see how Israel misunderstood, does it? You can see how they sought it *as it were by works*. It appears that they must "**earn**" God's blessing, they must **work** for his blessing.

If they would "**DO**" what He is asking them to do, *they would inherit the blessings of God*.

It's seems to suggest that, they must "**live right**" in order to receive the blessings... It appears to say, that ONLY if they "**Live righteously**" before God, would they inherit the blessings of God.

✦ Do not miss this... That is exactly what He was saying...

The requirement for salvation is "**living right!**" Which is *Righteousness*... Contrary to what many are preaching...*righteousness* was the standard then, and it's still the standard now! The confusion stems from understanding what righteousness is and how it is attained.

Israel had "**not attained**" righteousness, because they sought it "as it were by the works of the law." Meaning...they thought by "**keeping the law**" by "**doing what the law said**," that they had kept their end of the bargain, that they were obedient to their part of the covenant, thus they were righteous before God.

But as Paul has made clear, they were not... Reason being, the righteousness produced by "*Obedience to God's Law*" is not righteousness at all! Though there is a *form* of "*Obedience*," a *form* of righteousness found in the law... it is "superficial , external obedience only, and does not involve the heart!

Israel's "*submission*" to God's Law, produced a much different lifestyle, than that of the Gentiles. It resulted in that Israel manifested a far greater "*morality*" than the Gentiles. The law had produce good, honest people, people who would never steal from you, people who would never cheat on their spouses, people who would never lie or hurt anyone... But even so, they were no different than the Gentiles whom they condemned. Why? Because inwardly, Israel was no different than the Gentiles they condemned. Both contained "*rebellious hearts*" towards God...

The only difference between the Gentiles and the Jews was, the Gentiles showed no restraint. They lived how they pleased. They would simply live out the desires of their heart... Whereas the Jews, showed restraint! Mind you, not that they were any different in the heart than the Gentiles, but rather they showed restraint because they were raised “under the law,” they were raised not to live that way! Simply put, they did not live like the Gentiles simply because they “submitted” themselves to God’s Law...

That would be described today as maybe someone who raised in church, or someone who attends church. And they do so, because it’s the right thing to do. Or because the spouse wants them too. Good folks, upstanding citizens, good moral people...the only problem is, like Israel, their hearts no in it.

★ Here, Paul declares... That kind of “Righteousness” **is not enough** to save a man from God’s wrath!

Listen to me...Just because Paul has renounced the righteousness in the Law, in no way is Paul suggesting that “righteousness” or “right living” is unnecessary or no longer a requirement! That obedience to God is not a factor. But rather, what Paul is saying here is, “Obedience to the law” **is not obedience at all!**

For that kind of righteousness involves only the “head, hands and their feet...” God was not asking Israel for their “good works,” he was asking “for Israel...” God wasn’t asking for their “deeds,” he was asking for “them!”

Paul points to Moses, to declare this truth...

¹¹*For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off.*

Paul says...it is not hidden from thee...He says this in connection with the “heaven” in verse 12...

¹²*It is not in heaven, that thou should say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?*

“...hidden” carries the meaning of “too great,” or “too high” in reference to attainability...

The “commandment” or the “righteousness” God demands, is not “too great,” its not something “too high” to achieve. It speaks to difficulty... It is not so high standard, (**Heaven**) that it is “unattainable!”

...neither is it far off... Which is connected to “beyond the sea” in verse 13...

¹³*Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou should say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?*

“...far off” refers to distance...

The “commandment” or the “righteousness” that God demands, is not something you have to go to “great lengths” to acquire! It is not “out of reach,”

Speaking of “God’s Commandment” for Israel, Israel’s part of the covenant...Moses says...

God is not asking you to do the impossible, God is not giving us some unattainable goal, something out of your reach!

(Romans 10:8) ⁸*But what saith it?*

How does Moses say it is attained? ...How does Moses say it is acquired?

¹⁴*But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou may do it.*

What is he saying? What God requires is not some impossible goal, God is not requiring us to do something that is difficult to do...

Quiet the contrary, God has made it very simple, and very easy to attain! It's not acquired by going *great lengths*, **doing** *great things*...but rather, by doing one, simple thing...give ourselves to Him.

¹⁴*But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou may do it.*

God is not asking for our *great deeds*...but God is asking for our heart!

Close by reading... Deuteronomy 30:15~20...

By Preaching Christ, we simply declare that righteousness comes not by ones deeds in the law, but righteousness comes by faith in Christ and Christ alone! In the Cross, God has made atonement for our sins, and calls all men to surrender their life to Christ as Lord. Christ is the righteousness of God, because it restores a man to obedience to God, through obedience from the heart.