

Title:

Mistaken ZealWhoever Calls Upon the Name of Jesus Will be Saved.

Text: Romans 10:1-13

Turn to Romans chapter 10 in your Bibles. Romans chapter 10. In chapter 9, a section dealing with the problems of God's righteousness, we have seen that the nation of Israel, as a nation, rejected Jesus as the Messiah. There is some question there in the minds of those in Paul's day as to whether that means that God had cast off his people forever. The answer to that of course is NO!!! And chapter 11 will deal with the restoration of Israel.

(2B) Sandwiched between those two chapters is chapter 10. And this chapter deals with the reception of the Gentiles. And how that reception affects the restoration of Israel. Romans chapter 10 beginning with Verse 1 and reading to the end of the chapter. Please follow along in your Bibles.

(Read Romans 10:1-13)

WOULD YOU JOIN ME IN A WORD OF PRAYER

There <sup>is one</sup> ~~are two~~ major <sup>principle</sup> things that ~~we~~ <sup>I</sup> want to look at in chapter 10. <sup>And this principle.</sup>

(1C) The first of which deals with the nature of God's righteousness. This is found in the first 13 verses. The nature of God's righteousness.

You will understand sometimes more about God's righteousness by the way ~~people~~ people respond incorrectly then you will ~~when~~ they respond ~~correctly~~ correctly. At least you will know what God's righteousness is not. And that is sometimes very, very important.

And in the case of God's righteousness which we are looking at in the first 13 verses, I want you to see it in several ways.

(1D) First, we see it in the response of Israel in the first three verses.

The response of Israel. Paul begins this chapter by saying <sup>v51</sup> that his great concern and his heart's desire is that Israel would be saved.

Then in Verse 2 and 3 he gives us 5 things that characterize the response of Israel. And their response to God shows us a great deal about the nature of God's righteousness. And how every person can receive it.

(1E) The first thing I notice in Vs 2 is that they had a zeal for God.

A zeal for, or, of God. That basical means that they were actively ~~persuing~~ <sup>pursuing</sup> the knowledge of God.

Now, I don't know of a day, including ~~today~~ <sup>this</sup> day, in which the ~~entire~~ world is seeking a~~fter~~ ultimate reality. Some have said that it is a reaction to the scientific and technically age ~~in~~ which we live here in America. I don't know. But the world, wh~~ether~~ it is in the occult or cultic, or whether it is in the religions of the world, is seeking with great zeal a knowledge of God, the ultimate reality. Is there something more than what we see with our eyes.

<sup>Depends</sup> Now, in spite of the constant zeal that the nation of Israel had for God, it did not guarantee that they would discovery God and his righteousness. And I say to you that no matter how ~~yntense~~ intense you are in your search for God, you will not find Him unless you come God's way. You may have a graat zeal to know the truth about God, but you will not experience His righteousness until you come his way. That is a mystery. But you will see it unfolded here in chapter 10.

(2E) Now, the second thing about their response is that according to Vs 2 it was not according to knowledge. Now, what does that mean? First of all we just learned that they had a zeal for the knowledge of God. Now they were certainly learning some things. So, what does it mean that it was not according to knowledge?

The word "knowledge" in the Greek language means "full, mature, knowledge." It is used of believers who have a full mature knowledge of God's Word. The issue here is that while they had knowledge and were seeking after God, they had not come to that wonderful satisfying ~~peaceful~~ peaceful confidence, of knowing that they had exper~~ience~~ personally, the God of the universe.

<sup>50/74</sup> and that is like many people today. Even though they are seeking God They have not found him. It remainds ~~me~~ of what 2 Time 3 says about difficult times that will come in the last days. Many will be seeking a~~fter~~ God, but they are never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. ~~They~~

They will have a form, a ritual, of godliness. But they will deny the power of it. The Bible predicts that that will be true in the difficult times that will come in the last days. *and that prophecy is being fulfilled right now.*

So, people are seeking God, but it is not that full, mature, confidence. It is all based on the pursuit that hasn't yet been satisfied.

(3E) Now, the third thing that I notice about the response of Israel is that according to Vs 3 they <sup>are</sup> ignorant of the righteousness of God. They are in a state of being constantly ignorant. NOW WHY IS THIS?

According to this passage of scripture ~~and what we have learned~~ *We receive* already in Romans God's righteousness, ~~as to the method we receive it, is~~ *by* ~~FAITH~~ *FAITH* and ~~FAITH~~ *FAITH* alone, And this is the amazing thing about people. They are pursuing the knowledge of ultimate reality. And thus cannot experience Faith because they are actually trying to reason their way to God. No one has ever reasoned ~~his~~ himself to God. The method that God uses is FAITH. Believe the Word of God in order to be saved.

And so because of your pursuit of God through your own reasoning you remain in a constant state of ignorance of the real righteousness of God. That is a mystery. No matter how hard you struggle to know God, if you will not come God's way you will remain in a state of ignorance. Never coming to the confidence that you have found the truth.

(4E) The fourth thing that we learn in Vs 3 is that they are ~~still~~ trying to establish their own righteousness. <sup>How True This is</sup> And that is a common fact about us all. Vs 3 says "seeking to establish their own righteousness." That is an amazing thing how people cannot really accept the righteousness of God simply because they will not forsake their own. If you believe that there are some good things that you are doing that are worthy, and some bad things that you are avoiding, and you believe this makes you acceptable to God, and therefore you are going to be in heaven someday, brother let me tell you that you are on the wrong track. And this self righteousness will stand as a block, a barrier between you and the real discovery of God's salvation.

(5E) The fifth thing that I notice here in Vs 3 is that they did not submit themselves to the righteousness of God. *Here is The Key Submission*

Now, it is interesting how the Greek text puts this. Because it is in a tense which means at a moment of time it was offered to them. At some moment of time they heard how they could be righteous, sins forgiven, saved and know that they are going to heaven. They knew that at a particular moment. They learned that method. But the Bible says that they did not in that moment submit to it.

Do you see the problem? Many of us have heard the Gospel, but in our desire to make ourselves look acceptable <sup>to the world</sup> we are not going to the truth of the Gospel. We heard it, but we do not hear it in the sense of responding and submitting. Many people have heard the Gospel.

I remember the story of a young man who said he had not heard the Gospel until he was 21 years old. Some time later when he was visiting his home church he ran into one of his old Sunday School teachers. And he found out that they had presented the Gospel <sup>of Christ</sup> to him when he was in the third grade. You see, this dear teacher presented the Gospel, but he just didn't hear it, or did He?

You see, we can hear and yet not respond. The Bible says "blessed are those who have ears to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying."

And so people can in their own effort to establish their own righteousness completely ~~ignore~~ ignore the truth which they are hearing. And instead of submitting unto it and believing, they are trying to reason their way to God.

Thomas Aquinas, a great theologian said: "there is a ceiling to which reason goes, beyond which ~~there~~ is faith. And <sup>faith</sup> that is true."

(2D) Now, the second thing that I want you to see in terms of the nature of God's righteousness.... First, that it was seen in the response of Israel... Second, we see it in the righteousness of Christ and the Law. This is Vs 4-5. The righteousness of Christ and the law. And there are just two simple things that I want to share with you that will summarize verses 4 and 5.

~~Now~~, Vs 4 says that "Christ is the end or the fulfilment, the completion of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

Then, Vs 5, describes the kind of righteousness that the law will give you. That is...you have to do those things to live by them. So, here is the summary...

(1E) Number one, in the case of Christ, it demands faith in what he did. In the case of Christ it demands faith in what he did ~~in~~ <sup>on The Cross</sup>

(2E) Number two, in the case of the law it demands obedience in what you do. And there is all the difference in the world in those two concepts. In the case of Christ it demands faith in what he has already done. In the case of the law, that kind of righteousness, it demands obedience in what we do.

And the problem is that if we sin in one point of the law we are guilty of sinning against the whole law. So, how can anyone keep the law and perform for God and be saved?....Impossible.....

Christ is the end or completion of that law. Everything that the law demanded, Christ fulfilled. And the moment you believe in J.S. at that moment God's righteousness is applied to you and you experience salvation. But it is by faith and faith alone.

(3D) Now, the third way in which we see the nature of God's righteousness is in the requirement of faith and faith alone.

In Verses 6 to <sup>13</sup>10 there is an interesting ~~analysis~~ analysis of faith as being the absolute, necessary requirement for receiving God's righteousness and being saved. I would like you to see several things here.

(1E) Number one, this requirement-of faith realizes the impossibility of our doing anything to accomplish what God has promised. And this is illustrated in verses 6 and 7. If you understand that faith is the only way to be saved, you will then understand the impossibility of us doing anything to accomplish what God has already done.

Now, he give us two very strange illustrations.

(1F) First of all, in Vs 6 you have the example of the second coming of Christ. The Bible ask you to believe that J.C. is going to come again. He who ascended into heaven said that He would come again.

When Jesus ascended into heaven we read in Acts 1:11 this statement:

"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

Now, friends, there isn't a thing that you and I can do to hurry up the second coming of Christ. The Bible says that no one knows the day nor the hour when the son of man comes.

<sup>But</sup> Now, notice the reasoning of Vs 6. The <sup>man</sup> righteousness of faith never says this: "Well, who is going to ascend into heaven and get Christ to come back down to earth. After all he promise to come back.".....

Answer: NO ONE...You just believe he will come again...Jesus said: "I will come again." And you are ask to believe that. So, faith realizes the impossibility of our accomplishing what God promised. Not one of us can ascend into heaven and bring Christ back to earth. You cannot do it. You simple believe what God has already promised to you...THAT IS FAITH...

(2F) Now, the second illustration is found in Vs 7. This refers to the resurrection. In Vs 7 you find something else that a ~~person~~ <sup>people</sup> walking by faith will never say. And that is "who is going to descend into the deep to bring Christ back from the dead." You cannot do that. God has already brought Christ from the dead. And God ask you to believe that.

And that is the point of vs 9. That you must believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. You must believe it in order to be saved. And there is nothing you can do about that. You cannot change God's method of salvation for your own. You must believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. And if you do you will be saved.

So, the requirement of faith shows us the impossibility of us doing anything to accomplish what God has promised.

(2E) Now, the second thing about the requirement of faith in Vs 8 is that it simply receives the word as it is preached. Faith simply receives the Word as it is preached. Vs 8 says, "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."

Now, the word "word" in Vs 8 is the Greek word "Ramas" which means "the spoken word that is heard." That is very important because the point that Paul is making is that Salvation can come, the moment you hear the ~~spoken~~ <sup>spoken</sup> word, and believe it. Now, let me illustrate.

In American because we are prone to think through things and reason through everything, we struggle with the issue of faith. It is hard to just believe the Bible.

And then a missionary ~~goes~~ <sup>goes</sup> to some dark corner of the world and ~~presence~~ <sup>presence</sup> the gospel to people who have never heard gospel and people who do not have the technical advantages that we have. And you hear this all the time from missionaries. They are amazed that the moment he preaches the gospel in the language of those people there is an immediate response. People who have never heard the gospel before. They hear it for the first time. And they respond..

Do you understand. If it were necessary for us to have all of this intellectual ability to reason our way through, then how do we explain this response? Now, I am thankful for people who come to Christ in spite of there many reasonings and trying to discovery God. I remember once on active duty spending hours with a fellow officers debating the great doctrines of the Bible. This man was so brilliant he couldn't see the existence of God. And we debated and argued the issues. But one day, I tell you, that God showed that man. In a moment of time he simply accepted the message of the Gospel. And his wonderful testimony is this: you can never reason your way to God. You must believe the Gospel. And the moment you believe it, at that moment you will experience a marvelous transformation.

Now, friends, listen carefully. That is also true about a little child. Do you understand what Paul is trying to tell you here? O.K. that is great. This man of great intelligence came to Christ....Praise God... Listen, ~~if~~ a little child that doesn't understand ~~any~~ anything about the intelligent philosophies of the world can hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ... that <sup>Jesus</sup> loves loves him...and that Jesus is going to take him to heaven... that he will forgive all their sins....

He can hear the plan of salvation. And that little child can ask Jesus to come into his heart and be saved.....NOW, HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? By simply believing...believing....Have you really understood the requirement of faith?

Listen, friends, the more you put in of your human reasonings, you will find it hard to come to a decision. It is believing what God's Word says. Believe it. And God will change you in a moment of time. And you will experience what christian's talk about..when they say,"you must be born again." But it comes by faith. And no other way. You are going to have to believe the message of God's Word.

(3E) Then there is a third thing that I notice about the requirement of faith.

In Vs 9 and <sup>13</sup>10 we learn that faith responds to certain facts. Out faith is not whistling in the dark. That is not the faith off the Bible. The faith of the Bible responds to certain facts. And these facts are clearly stated in Vs 9 <sup>7</sup>and <sup>13</sup>10.

"If you confess," That is a beautiful word of faith. It means to say the same thing. To agree. To acknowledge that the Gospel is true. "If you agree with your mouth ~~the~~ Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him fom the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvtion."

How simple! Faith responds ~~to~~ with the mouth acknowledging. YES.. I agree. The Bible is right and I am wrong. I agree with what the Bible says about Jesus Christ about my sin and my need for God. I acknowledge that. I agree that Jesus Christ is Lord. That there isn't any higher Lord. You are agreeing that Jesus is God, when you use the word LORD. Jesus is God who came to this earth and died on a coross <sup>for</sup> my sin. He died for my sin and He rose from the grave because of me. And he ascended into heaven and he is coming ~~for~~ beack. HE IS LORD. AND I BELIEVE GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD IS THE CROWING POINT OF PROVING THAT HE IS LORD.



And the moment you respond to those fact, at that moment you shall besaved. It is as simple as that.

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*at* (4D) Now, the fourth thing that I want you to see about the nature of God's righteousness is in verses 11-13. And that is in the relationship of Jew and Gentile. This is a wonderful passage. And it teaches us again the beauty of God's method of faith.

*Then Next* Vs 11 ~~says~~ "For the Scripture says, whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed or ashamed." You will never regret asking Jesus to come into your life. Vs 12 "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; for whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

Here is the beauty of this. It doesn't matter ~~who~~ who you are, ~~if~~ educated or uneducated, male or female, bond or free, rich or poor, WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF JESUS SHALL BE SAVED...

You see, we are all the same at the foot of *Jesus* ~~Christ~~ Christ. We all must come to Jesus by FAITH. You may think that you have a special way of reaching God. You may think that your good works will get you to heaven. NO WAY...You must come in the same way as a little child. And God says, "My method for experienceing new birth, spiritual salvation, is to believe ~~why~~ what I have said."

For God so lovèd the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes on Jesus shall not go to Hell, but be saved and have everlasting life.

*On Friend* Do you want to experience the reality of the living God in your life? DO YOU?...You must come like a little child by faith...And believe what God says in his Word. And when you do you will be saved.

Let us close in prayer