

THE WORD OF FAITH

ROMANS 10:8-10 • TV200A

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Romans 10:8-10

“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; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

I will be speaking to you today on the subject: **“THE WORD OF FAITH.”**

I would like for you to take your Bible; I will be reading from the **Book of Romans**. I am going to read, first of all, from the **10th chapter of Romans**. Then, we are going to turn to a very important Scripture in the **3rd chapter of Romans**.

I think you will be blessed more by the message if you will take your Bible and follow along with me as I read the Scripture and speak from these verses.

First of all: In **Romans chapter 10**, I am going to begin reading with a portion of **verse 8**. This is what it says in **verse 8**; considering the work or the “*word of faith*.”

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Now, what does it say *“the word of faith which we have preached;”* what does this word of faith say? Here is what it says; *“that if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus,”* and most translators interpret that to be *“Jesus to be Lord.”*

This is a better translation; *“if thou shall confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord and shall believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*

Now, **verse 10:** *“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

Now, that is the word of faith. Before I speak from these verses, I want to make a statement and I want you to listen carefully to it. Will you consider this important truth? This is most important for you to consider.

I believe that if you will, if you will receive this truth that I am about to give you, it will prepare your heart to receive the word of faith through grace. If you will receive this truth, it will prepare your heart to receive the message of salvation by the free grace of God.

Here is the statement; listen to it carefully: The creature (I’m talking about angels and men) is disobedient to God and is rebellious against God under any dispensation.

Now, one of the strongest evidences we have of the fall of man and the depravity of the human heart and the sin of men is that men will not obey God whatever the environment, whatever the circumstances.

Man is a disobedient creature regardless of the circumstances, regardless of the environment, and regardless of where he is. I will make good on that.

Consider the state of the angels when God created all things in the original creation. The angels lived in perfect holiness, perfect harmony, and perfect glory. Yet, their hearts were lifted up to rebel against God.

If you will read **Isaiah chapter 14**, you will read where Lucifer, the leader of that great host of heavenly beings who said, *“I will be like God. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. I will ascend into the heights of the clouds.”*

Five times in that passage of Scripture in **Isaiah 14**, he used two words; *“I will;”* *“I will be like God. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds. I will put my throne above God’s throne.”* So, even under these circumstances, in these conditions, the angels rebelled against God.

Then, consider the state of Adam and Eve, our father and mother. They were in a perfect garden. Adam was a king. Adam had dominion; *“God gave him dominion over all the fish of the seas, the fowl of the air, and the creeping things on the earth.”*

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He told Adam to “*subdue the earth;*” it was his. There was only one commandment, not to eat of a certain tree. And yet, in this holiness, in this righteous state, in this beautiful fellowship with God, in this perfect garden where everything was perfect and his environment was perfect, everything around him was perfect, yet, Adam rebelled against God.

Consider Noah and his sons. God said that he saw “*that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and every imagination of man’s heart was evil continually.*”

“*God determined to destroy the world;*” that is what the Scripture says. He chose to save one man and his family, Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives.

Noah preached to the people and warned of the coming flood for 120 years; “*Noah being warned of God of things not seen, moved with fear and prepared an ark to the saving of his house.*”

These boys and Noah saw this miraculous deliverance. They were miraculously delivered by the hand of God. They saw the destruction of the whole world. After the ark sat back down on the earth, it was only a short time.

Here this man and his family, miraculously, supernaturally, delivered by the grace of God, “*Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*” While the whole earth was under the judgment of God and the wrath of God, this man and his family “*found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*”

Yet, they were not on the ground anytime at all until Noah planted a vineyard, got drunk and caused his son to sin a great sin. Under these conditions, this man still rebelled against God.

Consider the state of Israel. The nation Israel had been down in Egypt 400 years, oppressed in bondage and slavery. God came by the hand of Moses and delivered these people out of Egypt in a most supernatural way.

They saw the plagues that God brought upon Egypt, and then finally they saw that great, terrible plague, the death of the firstborn. Their homes were spared, their children were spared, their lives were spared as God saw the Passover Lamb slain and the blood on the two side posts and the upper door post.

God passed over them and Pharaoh allowed them to go out. They left Egypt. Not a hoof or a hair was left behind. They took everything with them. God miraculously delivered them at the Red Sea and drowned the host of Pharaoh’s army.

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They saw bread from heaven. They saw the smitten rock and they saw all these miracles. Yet, it was no time at all until they were building a golden calf and worshipping a false god, even under these circumstances.

Then, consider if you will, David's glory. God gave David glory like he gave no other man. Yet, David sinned in adultery and murder against God.

Consider Solomon; God gave Solomon wisdom like he had given to no other man and yet Solomon married many wives and even built false images and shrines for them to worship their gods.

Consider this; consider the very presence of our Lord Jesus Christ on this earth, the very presence of the Son of God and the miracles which he performed: He gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf. He fed thousands; he healed the sick, and even brought people from the grave. Yet, men did not believe him.

Consider the early church. Here is the early church; our Lord had died on the cross, been buried, raised again, and ascended back to the Father. He left these twelve apostles on the earth, the eleven, and Paul was chosen by the Lord to take Judas' place.

These men ministered personally to these churches, the church at Galatia, the church at Philippi, the church at Colossi, the church at Thessalonica and all of the other churches. We read of these churches, which was just a matter of 15 or 20 years after Christ's personal walk on this earth, and after his death. Many of the people in these churches were witnesses of his death and his resurrection.

Yet, we find these people engaged in the most indescribable things. We find them even departing from the Gospel. We find them returning to circumcision, returning to rituals and ceremonies, and all of these things.

What I am saying is this and I hope you understand what I am saying; the creature is disobedient to God; it is a sign and an evidence of our depravity and of our fallen nature.

We say, "Improve man's environment and you will improve the man," no sir. They say, "Improve his surroundings and you will improve the man; educate him." You can take any circumstance, any environment, any surroundings, and man by nature, because of the sin in his heart, sin in his very soul will rebel against holiness, against righteousness, and against God.

You see that all the way through the Word. Even the angels, Adam and Eve were perfect circumstances. Noah miraculously delivered Israel. David, Solomon, Peter, the apostle Peter, walked with our Lord three and a half years. In the end of that time he openly denied that he even knew Christ.

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In these early churches; read the **Book of Corinthians**; you will find these difficult things occurring in the churches. It just *shows* “*that in the flesh dwelleth no good thing. In the flesh no man can please God.*”

“The natural man receiveth not the things of God, they are foolishness to him. Neither can he know them, they are spiritually discerned.”

Every prophet of God has bemoaned the fact that men will not hear the Word of the Lord; they have bemoaned that fact. They have wept over that fact; read over it.

Isaiah said in **Isaiah 53**: “*Who hath believed our report (our doctrine)? To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?*”

Listen to what God said through Ezekiel: “*They come to you and they sit before you as my people and they hear your words; they will not do them. With their mouths they show great love but with their hearts they go after covetousness. They hear your words but they will not do them.*”

Listen to our Master: In **John 5:40** it says, “*You will not come to me that you might have life. Let another come in his own name and him you will receive. I come in my Father’s name and you receive me not. Let another come in his own name and him you will receive.*”

Whether God speaks in love, whether God speaks in judgment, man is the same disobedient, fallen, depraved, rebellious creature, under any dispensation, under any circumstances, in any environment and he is a rebel against God Almighty.

But, the true ambassador of Christ, neither trims his message, nor ceases to proclaim the good news of the grace of God in Jesus Christ. This is so evident here in the writings of the Apostle Paul from **Romans 10**. I want you to look back there again with me. Let’s go back to **verse 1**.

The apostle Paul neither trimmed his message, though he knew these things, though he knew the condition of men. He neither trimmed his message nor did he cease to proclaim the good news with the prayer and the hope that somebody, somewhere, would be enabled by the Spirit of God to hear with a hearing ear and to see with the seeing eye and believe with a regenerated heart.

Now; notice three things that I am going to give you briefly:

First of all: The apostle’s great desire, his great desire.

He said in **verse 1 of Romans 10**; “*brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for Israel is, (these rebellious people), my prayer to God for Israel is, (this disobedient people), my prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved, (that they might come to know God).*”

No man can question Paul's motive. You can never question the motive of the apostle Paul. He never sought personal glory. He had all the personal glory a man could ever want before he met God. He didn't desire a personal fame, that wasn't his objective, that wasn't his motive, he didn't promote himself. He didn't just seek a platform to express his views, he had a platform.

He was not promoting a denomination. He was not promoting a sect or a cult. His one desire and his one prayer was, *"brethren; my heart's desire and my (sincere) prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved."*

If you will go back to **Chapter 9 and read verses 2 and 3**, you will hear Paul say this; *"I have great heaviness of heart and continual sorrow for my brethren, my kinsmen, according to the flesh. I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for these brethren."*

Moses said something like that. Moses was a man who had a heart broken for his people. Moses was a man who wanted to see the people of God walk in obedience to God. He was a man who did not want the judgment and wrath of God to fall upon his people.

He stood one day between an angry God and the nation of Israel and said; *"God, if you don't spare the people, just blot me out of your book."*

That is similar to what Paul is saying right here; *"I have such a desire to see people to come to know God that I could wish myself were cast away from Christ for my brethren."*

I do know this, God will not bless hypocrisy; hypocrisy sometimes is successful, but it does not have God's blessings upon it. God does not bless insincerity and does not bless hypocrisy. A man's motive will determine his message and his methods.

Paul's motive was clear. Paul's motive was a good motive; he said, *"My desire and my prayer to God, for my people, is that they might be saved."* That is his desire.

Secondly: The apostle's discernment.

Now, this apostle had discernment, he had understanding. He says in **Romans 10:2**; *"I bear them record; (I know that this is true), (that these people whom I desire to see saved, come to know God, my people, my kinsmen according to the flesh)"*, he said; *"they have a zeal of God."* The word "zeal" is interest; they have enthusiasm; they have a religious tradition; *"they have a zeal for God."*

These people were not without religion. They had the ceremonies. They had the Feast Days. They had the Holy Days. They had the sacrifices but it was zeal alone. He said, *"They have a zeal of God. I bear them record; (I know that this is true because I was one of them)."*

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Paul said, *“I was born a Hebrew of Hebrews. I was born of the tribe of Benjamin.”* He said, *“I was a Pharisee; considering the law, I was blameless.”* He said, *“I know these people; they have a zeal; (they have for God an interest in God, an enthusiasm for God but they don’t have the true knowledge of God); they are ignorant; it is not according to knowledge.”*

In other words, they had the form without the heart. They had the letter without the life. They were *“ever learning, ever learning, and never coming to knowledge of the truth.”*

Our Lord Jesus Christ looked at the most religious men of his day and he made this declaration; he said, *“You neither know me nor my Father.”* You have the zeal, you have the interest, you have the enthusiasm, you have the religious tradition, but *“you neither know me nor my Father.”*

Now, my friend; let’s look at **verse 3**: This is what Paul is saying; you hear his desire; *“my heart’s desire, my prayer to God for my people is that they might be saved, that they might come to know God.”*

“I bear them record; they have a zeal, (an interest, an enthusiasm; they have a religious tradition), but it is not according to knowledge.”

Now; here is how I know that:

First of all: In **verse 3**, he says; *“They are ignorant of God’s righteousness; they are ignorant of God’s righteousness.”*

What I am saying about this generation here in Paul’s day is what I am saying about our generation. We have zeal of God and we have an interest in God. We have enthusiasm for the things of God. We have our religious traditions, our denominations and programs.

But, He said, *“It is not according to knowledge. They are ignorant of God’s righteousness.”* What is that talking about? They were ignorant of God’s own, personal, essential, righteousness. That is not the full meaning here but that is part of it; *“they are ignorant of God’s (personal, essential), righteousness.”*

Isaiah said, *“When king Uzziah died I saw the Lord high and lifted up and his train filled the temple, and the seraphim’s cried, holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty.”* God is holy, God is holy; the Lord God is a holy God.

Yes, God is love and God is grace and God is merciful. God is truth and God is just but the primary and principle attribute of the living God is holiness. These people were ignorant of God’s immaculate, infinite, unchangeable, holiness. *“The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.”*

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The spirit of God is called *“the Holy Spirit;”* the priest who went before the Lord in the Old Testament had written on his forehead; *“holiness to the Lord.”* Even our Bibles are called *“the Holy Bible.”* God is holy. Watch this: *“They have a zeal for God but they are ignorant of God’s righteousness (holiness).”*

Secondly: Men are ignorant of the holiness which God requires of the creature.

Are you with me? Not only are they ignorant of his infinite, unchangeable, holiness, but they are ignorant of the holiness which he demands, which he must demand, which his holiness makes it necessary for him to demand.

Almighty God is holy and any man who stands in his presence must be as holy as God. *“Who shall stand in his presence; he that hath clean hands and a pure heart: O Israel what doth the Lord thy God require of thee; to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, and your neighbor as yourself.”*

That perfect, immaculate, holiness; do you see that? *“They are going about to establish a righteousness of their own.”* Why? Because they do not know that God is holy. They do not understand the holiness of God or the holiness which he requires.

And being ignorant of his immaculate holiness and being ignorant of the holiness which his law demands and which God requires, then they go about to establish a righteousness of their own.

They own their works based on their profession, based on their prayers, based on the keeping of Holy Days, based on the abstinence of certain sins. *“They go about to establish their own righteousness.”* That’s the reason.

Paul said, *“My desire, my heart’s desire is that men might be saved. I bear them record; (I know, I discern this); they have a zeal for God. (They have an enthusiasm and interest for God. They have their religious traditions), but not according to knowledge.”*

The reason that I know that is this; they are ignorant of God’s holiness. They are ignorant of the holiness of which he must demand and which his law must require, in which they cannot produce.

Being ignorant of his holiness and being ignorant of what he demands and that of which he will be satisfied, which is perfection, they are going about through their religious works, professions, programs, Holy Days, observances, Sabbath’s, works, tithes, and all these things, to make themselves acceptable to God and it won’t do.

Look at **verse 4:** *“They will not submit themselves to the righteousness of God in Christ: For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.”* Christ is the goal of the law. Christ is the consummation of the law.

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Listen to this Scripture, *“By one man sin entered the world and death by sin, so death passed upon all men.”* That is **Romans 5:12**. **Romans 5:19** says this; *“By one man’s disobedience we were made sinners. By the obedience of one shall we be made righteous.”* That is Christ’s obedience and Christ’s righteousness.

Listen to **2 Corinthians 5:21**; *“He was made sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”* Listen to **Galatians 4:4**; *“In the fullness of the time, God sent his Son made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were born under the law.”* **Galatians 3:13** says, *“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law being made a curse for us.”*

So you see, the law does, still does, always will, require perfect obedience. God’s holiness demands perfect obedience. We are unable to produce it.

Christ our substitute, anointed, sent of God, came into this world as our representative and as a man he fulfilled and obeyed all that the law required, all that justice demanded, all that God Almighty commanded; he fulfilled it, imputing unto us a perfect standing before God.

And all who believe in him have his righteousness. In **Romans 4:20**, it talks about Abraham. It says, *“Abraham,”* (whether he lives in the Old Testament, the New Testament, whether he lived in the first century or this century), *“Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness.”*

Now; *“It was written not for his sake alone that his faith was imputed to him for righteousness, but for us also, (to whom this righteousness, this holiness, will be imputed) if we believe on him that raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead.”*

Thirdly: The apostles message to us all, an apostle’s desire; I want people to be saved; I want to know God. An apostle’s discernment; I know that they do not know God. They do not know his holiness or the holiness he requires and therefore, *“they are going about (through their programs and religious doings) to establish a righteousness”* and hoping that God will accept them but He won’t.

Now, here is his message and it is two-fold in **verse 5**:

He said, *“Moses describes the righteousness which is of the law.”* This is what Moses said and this is what the law says, it can’t say anything else, *“that the man which doeth these things (perfectly, without flaw), shall live by them.”*

In other words, it is clear and simple. If you would stand before God on the basis of your works, if you would stand before God on the basis of your deeds, if you would stand before God on the basis of His law, if you would stand before God on the basis of your religious observances, you must keep the whole law perfectly.

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You cannot offend in one point, not in thought, not in word, not in deed, not in attitude, not in motive, not in spirit, not in anyway. *“To offend in one point is to be guilty of the whole law.”*

“You that would be under the law, don’t you hear the law? (Don’t you hear what it requires?)” It requires absolute, immaculate, infinite, perfection, just like God himself in character, in word, in thought, in attitude, motive, and deed.

It must be a perfect love, a perfect righteousness. If you want to stand on that ground you will be permitted to. God will meet you on that ground and judge you.

I will tell you this; even your best deeds in the sight of God compared to his holiness, your best deeds are *“filthy rags.”*

Here’s the other statement. The message of the Gospel is this; *“it is the word of faith,”* not a work to do, but a work that is done. It is not a righteousness to be fulfilled but a righteousness already perfectly fulfilled by Christ.

Turn to **Romans 3**, the Scripture I mentioned awhile ago. Listen to **Romans 3:19**; it says, *“Now we know, that whatsoever the law saith, (God’s holy, infinite, law, God’s perfect law, which springs from his perfect character, his perfect holiness; “what that law saith, it saith to them that are under the law that every mouth may be stopped, (no alibi, no excuses), and all the world become guilty before God.”*

Therefore, since the law pronounces every man, every woman, of every generation, guilty before God, *“therefore, by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified, (saved, redeemed), in his sight.”*

Now, we may justify ourselves in the sight of others, but not in God’s sight. But now, *“the righteousness of God without the law, (without your obedience to the law), is clearly manifested (and revealed), being witnessed by the law and the prophet’s. It is the righteousness of God which is by faith in Jesus Christ upon all and unto all that believeth for all have sinned; there is no difference.”*

Now, if you will confess, and what is this word of faith; it is in your mouth; it is near to you. *“If you will confess with your mouth Jesus to be Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him, (our righteousness, Him our justifier), from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*

“For with the heart man believeth.” It’s not with the hands that work is done but *“with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, with the mouth confession of faith unto salvation.”*

“That is the word of faith which we preach!”