

WHEN IS A MAN SAVED?

ROMANS 10:9-10 • TV109A

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By
HENRY T. MAHAN

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Romans 10:9-10

“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.”

The book of **Romans chapter 10:9 and 10** declares: *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord and 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.”*

And then, Paul wrote in **verse 13**: *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* Now, that’s my text this morning and the subject is this: **“WHEN IS A MAN SAVED?”**

JUST EXACTLY WHEN IS A MAN SAVED ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES?

Well, it’s premature to talk about when a man is saved unless we come to some conclusions as to what it means to be saved. We are going to have to find out from God’s Word what salvation really is.

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Now, I may say that salvation is one thing and you may say that salvation is something else. So, if we are going to find out when a man is saved, we are going to have to first of all, establish some understanding about what it is to be saved, what is it to be saved? What is salvation, what is eternal life?

Well, let me suggest three or four things from God's Word:

First of all: To the saved, to have eternal life is to know God! Now, that's what Christ our Lord said. In **John 17:3** the Master said: *"Eternal life is to know God and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent."* He didn't say eternal life is to believe there is one God.

The Scripture says, *"You believe there's one God; you do well. The devil believes and trembles."* That's in **James 2:19**. It's not to believe there is a God or that there is one God but Christ said, *"Eternal life, (to be saved), is to know God. It is to know God and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent."*

In **1 John 5:20** the Scripture says: *"And we know that the Son of God is come and hath given us an understanding that we may know him that is true and that we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. And this is the true God and eternal life."*

So, salvation is not just a profession, salvation is not just a religious claim or a decision; Salvation is to know the living God, to know God and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent.

Secondly: What is it to be saved? First of all it's to know God and it is to be delivered from the guilt and condemnation of sin!

Now, all the way through the Bible the Scriptures declare that God must and will punish sin. There is no question about that. *"Sin when it is finished bringeth forth death. The soul that sinneth; it shall surely die."*

God said: *"I will in no wise clear the guilty."* God will and God must punish sin. He's not only merciful but God is righteous. God is not only gracious but He's holy and His holiness and His righteousness demand that sin be punished, demand that the law be honored, demand that justice be satisfied. God must punish sin.

So, salvation is to be delivered from the punishment of sin, from the penalty of sin, from the condemnation and guilt of sin. Paul wrote in **Romans 8:1**: *"There is therefore, now, no condemnation (and the word is judgment) to them who are in Christ Jesus."*

That's why the Lord came to this earth. He came to save people from their sin and to save them by dying for them. The angel said to Mary and Joseph, *"Thou shalt bring forth a Son and call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins."*

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That's why God sent Him. That's why He came. That's the purpose He came to accomplish, "to save his people from their sin." **Luke 19:10**, the Lord Jesus said Himself: "*The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*"

In **John 3:16** that familiar passage of Scripture declares, "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.*"

And Isaiah wrote, "*He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him and by his stripes we are healed.*" Our sins are put away by the sacrifice of Christ.

And Paul wrote in **Romans 8:34**: "*Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died. Yea rather, is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, whoever liveth to make intercession for us.*"

So, to be saved is to be delivered from the penalty of a just law. It's to be delivered from the punishment of the justice of God. It's to be delivered from the guilt and condemnation of sin.

A man cannot say that he is saved who does not know God. "*He that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he's the rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*"

And a man cannot say that he is saved who has not been delivered from the penalty, the condemnation, the guilt, and the punishment of sin. If sin's judgment is still on you then you are certainly not saved.

Because, do you know what the word saved means, delivered? That's what the word saved means, delivered.

So, what is it to be saved? It's to know God in a saving, vital, interest. It is to know God in a personal, intimate, vital union. It is to be delivered from the penalty and punishment of sin by the sacrifice of another.

What is it to be saved? You are not going to be able to deal with this subject, "**When is a Man Saved,**" unless we have some understanding of what it means to be saved.

Thirdly: To be saved is to be delivered from the power and from the practice of sin! Now, listen to me; a lot of people want to talk about being delivered from the punishment of sin, who don't want to hear anything about being delivered from the practice of sin. There are a lot of people who want to hear about being delivered from the condemnation of sin who do not want to hear about being delivered from the power of sin.

But let me tell you this, "*If any man be in Christ Jesus he is a new creature.*" You say, "I've heard that somewhere; where is that?" That's in God's Word, **2 Corinthians 5:17**.

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If any man, it doesn't matter who it is, whatever his denomination, whatever his profession, whatever his religion; if any man be in Christ Jesus, and that's where the mercies of God are, they are in Christ.

They are not in the denomination, the law, the church building, the ordinances, or the Holy Days. God's mercies are in Christ. *"If any man be in Christ then he is a new creature."*

Children of God are not perfect; I know that and you know that. Paul said: *"I'm not perfect. I have not arrived. I count not myself to have apprehended."* God's people are always conscience of the motions of sin within them. They are always conscience of the thoughts of sin.

They weep over them and they grieve over them. They are always conscience of the presence of sin, the presence of evil, but they do not serve sin, and they do not love sin. They serve and love the Lord God.

God's people live honest and God-fearing and holy lives. That's so! The fruit of the Holy Spirit to some degree is manifested in every believer. What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the fruit of God's spirit? That is, that means that's the fruit that is produced by His indwelling presence.

Let me tell you this, *"If any man have not the Spirit of God; he is none of his."* People talk about being saved but seeking the Holy Spirit. Well, we seek more of His fullness and we seek more of His teachings and we seek more of His comfort and we seek more of His presence.

But let me tell you this: *"If any man have not the spirit of Christ; he's none of his."* You are born of the Holy Spirit. We are called by the Holy Spirit. We are baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. If any man does not have the Holy Spirit, he doesn't belong to Christ. He's not even saved.

But the fruit of the Spirit; that is the byproduct of the indwelling Spirit, is love. There are nine of them listed in **Galatians 5:22**. Incidentally it doesn't say, "the fruits, (plural), fruits of the Spirit;" it says, *"the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance."*

John said, *"He that loveth not, knoweth not God."* So, being saved is to know God, the living God, to be joined by the Spirit of God into a living union with the living God.

And it's to be delivered from the condemnation and judgment of sin. And it's to be delivered from the reigning power of sin. It's to be delivered from the daily practice of sin and it's to be brought into a life of holiness and godliness, honesty, and truth. It is to long to be like Christ.

Fourthly: What is to be saved? To be saved, is to one day be finally delivered from the very presence of sin, from this body of sin, from this body of death, and being perfectly conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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That is what God has purposed for every believer, to make him like Christ. We are all going to be just like the Lord Jesus Christ. There will come a day when we are going to lay aside this body of flesh, this body of death, this nature of evil, and we are going to be changed.

Do you know the Scripture says in **1 Corinthians 15**: “*For the trump shall sound and Christ shall come.*” He says: “*I will show you a mystery; we are not all going to sleep.*” There will be some folks alive when Christ comes.

“We are not all going to sleep but we all are going to be changed in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye. For the trumpet of God shall sound and the dead in Christ shall rise and we which are living shall be changed and caught up to meet the Lord in the air.”

“And this corruptible, (talking about our flesh, our evil nature); this corruptible shall put on incorruption and this mortal shall put on immortality and then shall be brought to pass the saying, death is swallowed up in victory.”

So, what is it to be saved? It’s to know God. Christ gave that definition Himself. He said, “*Eternal life is to know God*” (**John 17:3**). It’s to know God like you know your husband, or wife, or children, to know God, to be joined in an intimate, personal, living relationship, to walk with God, to live with God, to talk with God and that God will speak to you.

And it’s to be delivered from the condemnation of sin. Our record is clean. Our sins are washed away. They are paid for. The holiness and justice and law of God are satisfied.

It’s to be delivered from a life of sin, from the practice and power of sin. It’s to serve the living God. And one day when that salvation is complete; it will be to “*be perfectly conformed to the image of God’s blessed Son.*”

Now, here’s the question that we have as our topic today; when does this take place, when is a man saved? When can a man say, “I am saved?” Someone comes up to you and says; “Are you saved?” Well, when can you answer “yes sir; by the grace of God I’m saved, I’m a child of God?”

And some folks say that a person is saved when he is christened as an infant. You know, a lot of folks take infants, the newly born, and put water on them and say a few words over them. Some people say that makes them saved.

Well, now that has no Scriptural foundation. There’s not in the Word of God anywhere one example of any infant being sprinkled. It’s just not in God’s Word. I know it’s in books and I know it’s in customs, and I know it’s in rituals, and so forth, but it’s not in God’s Word.

Even many who practice it will tell you “well, it’s not in God’s Word but we assume this sort of thing. We do it because of tradition; it came down from our fathers.” But that’s not when a man is saved.

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Others say a man is saved when he makes a profession of faith and joins the church. Well, Judas was a member of the church. In fact, he was an apostle. He held the highest office in the church.

Not only that; he was the treasurer and a member of the church but that didn't save him.

And I will tell you someone else, a man named Demas; being a member of the church didn't save him. Paul said; *"Demas hath forsaken me having loved this present world."*

Then those folks in **1 John 2:19**, it didn't save them. John said: *"They went out from us because they weren't of us. If they had been of us they would no doubt continued with us."* So, it didn't do them any good.

Then, some folks say that a man is saved when he is baptized. Well, Simon Magus destroys that. He was baptized but he wasn't saved. And the thief on the cross wasn't baptized at all but he was saved. Christ said, *"Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."*

So, that's not what saves and that's not when a man is saved. Some folks say, "Well, you can't know you're saved till you get to heaven."

Well, Paul destroyed that. He said: *"I know whom I have believed and I'm persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed unto him against that day."* John destroyed that. John said: *"We know that we have passed from death unto life."* David destroyed that, he said: *"The Lord is my shepherd."* So, a man can know he's saved before he gets to heaven.

I ask this question today and I want you to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider it; when is a man saved? When can a man say that I know God; "I am delivered from the guilt and condemnation of sin? I've been by the grace of God delivered from the practice and power of sin. Oh I'm not what I ought to be, and I'm not what I want to be. And I'm not by the grace of God what I expect to be but thank God I'm not what I use to be; I know that."

When can a man say, "I'm saved?" Let me give you four things to prayerfully consider in answering this question "When is a man saved?"

First of all: A man is saved when it pleases the Lord.

That's when a man will be saved, not when he gets good and ready, or when mommy or daddy gets ready, or when somebody else gets ready. *"It's not of the will of the flesh, it's not of the will of man, (it's not of a fleshly inheritance) we are born of God."*

Now listen to this in **Galatians 1:15**: Paul is speaking, the glorious and illustrious, Apostle Paul, the prince of preachers, the writer of Scripture, and the first missionary. He said in **Galatians 1:15**: *"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me by his grace to reveal his Son in me."*

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When did Paul come to know the Saviour, “*when it pleased God?*” When was Christ revealed to his heart, “*When it pleased God?*” When was Paul broken under the convicting power of the Holy Spirit and smitten down into the dust on the road to Damascus, “*When it pleased God!*”

When did Paul see the glory of Jesus Christ? When was he brought to cry: “*Lord, what will you have me do.*” “*When it pleased God.*” Now that’s when a man is going to be saved, when it pleases God.

My friend; “*salvation is of the Lord.*” In Psalms, the writer David declared: “*The salvation of the righteous is of the Lord.*” **Jonah chapter 2:9** says, “*Salvation is of the Lord.*”

Ephesians 2:8 and 9 say: “*For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any many should boast. For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works which we have been ordained to walk therein.*”

My friend; salvation is of the Lord. He chose us. He was pleased to save us. He gave His Son to redeem us. He’s pleased in His own time to call us. We are quickened by the Holy Spirit. **Ephesians 2:1** says: “*You hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sin.*”

We are born of the Holy Spirit. We are born of the water and of the Spirit. “*We are accepted in the beloved. We are his workmanship.*” Repentance is the gift of God. The Scripture says, “*The goodness of God led you to repentance. God hath granted repentance to Israel.*”

Faith is the gift of God: “*It’s not of works lest any man should boast.*”

One great, old, preacher of many years ago use to say this nearly every time he preached; he would say: “If my voice is the only voice you hear, nothing of any eternal value will be accomplished for you.”

What do you mean? I mean this; you’ve got to hear the voice of a man because God uses men. You’ve got to hear the Word of God preached because, “*how can they call on him in whom they have not believed and how shall they believe in whom they have not heard and how shall they hear without a preacher, and how shall they preach except they be sent?*”

But my friend; we’ve got to hear Him speak who speaks through His Word and through His preaching. We are ambassadors for Christ. We’ve got to hear Him who speaks from heaven. “*God who at sundry times and divers manners spake in times past to our fathers by the prophets: Hath in these last days spoken to us by his Son.*”

So, when will a man be saved, when it pleases God, when it pleases God to cross his path, when it pleases God to arrest him on his Damascus road to condemnation, when it pleases God to reveal Christ to his heart, when it pleases God to give him and grant to him repentance and faith?

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Secondly: When will a man be saved? A man will be saved when it pleases God and he will be saved when he comes under the authority of Jesus Christ and when he comes to bow to the Lordship of Jesus Christ!

At the beginning of this message I quoted a verse of Scripture from **Romans 10:9**: “*But if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord,*” (Jesus to be what? Lord, not just your personal Saviour, but your Lord).

The Bible doesn't know anything about a “doormat named Jesus.” The Bible doesn't know anything about a “fire escape named Jesus.” The Bible does not offer any salvation to any man who just trusts Jesus as “his personal Saviour” and refuses to bow to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The Bible doesn't know anything about that; it says: “*If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord.*”

Peter on Pentecost said this, “*This same Jesus whom you crucified; God hath exalted to be both Lord and Christ.*” What is a Lord, a supreme, reigning, ruler, a sovereign Master and Lord? Paul said on the road to Damascus, “*Lord, what would you have me do?*”

The thief on the cross said, “*Lord, remember me.*” The leper cried, “*Lord, if you will you can make me clean.*” “*My Lord and my God,*” said Thomas as he knelt at the feet of the Son of God.

Yes sir! **Philippians 2** says: “*Let this mind be in you which is also in Jesus Christ, who thought it not robbery to be equal with God but made himself of no reputation and took upon himself the form of a servant and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross,* (that he might redeem his people).”

“*Wherefore God hath highly exalted him and given him a name which is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue should confess* (that he's what? that he's my personal Saviour? It doesn't say that; it says) *he is Lord, Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*”

So, I'm saying this to you very gently, very personally, and very plainly; a man is saved not when he walks down the aisle and says he accepts Jesus as his personal Saviour, but he, when he with a broken heart and a contrite spirit bows to the authority and the Lordship of Jesus Christ in his life.

Christ will be Lord of all or he won't be Lord at all. That's so! “*A man cannot serve two masters,*” and Christ is our Master. He's either our Master or we are not His children. We are not His bond-slaves.

He said: “*He that loveth father, mother, brother, sister, husband or wife, more than me is not worthy to be my disciple. He that taketh not up his cross cannot be my disciple. He that puts his hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for the kingdom of God. Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you.*”

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Thirdly: A man is saved when he sees the glory of God in Jesus Christ; now think about this, when he sees the glory of God in Jesus Christ!

Moses said in **Exodus 33**, *“Lord, show me your glory”* (show me your redemptive glory). God said: *“I will be merciful to whom I will be merciful. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious. Show me your glory.”*

Christ said, *“Abraham saw my day.”* He saw the glory of Christ, the glory of redemption in Christ and he rejoiced. **2 Corinthians 4:6** says: *“God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”*

What are you talking about preacher; a man’s saved when he sees the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ? This is what I’m talking about; Job wrestled with this question: *“How can God be just and justify the ungodly?”*

How can God be holy, just, and righteous, and put away the guilt, and shame, and sin of folks like me and you? How can he do it and honor His law and satisfy His justice? There’s just one way and that’s for a substitute, a sufficient substitute to take our place and honor God’s law and satisfy God’s justice.

Study **Romans 3:26**; it tells you how God can be just and justify the ungodly. Study **Psalms 85:10**; listen, in **Psalm 85:10** it says: *“Mercy and truth met together. Righteousness and peace kissed one another.”*

Where did that take place, at Calvary? That’s where Christ glorified the Father by satisfying justice and honoring the law. When you see that you can claim this thing called salvation, when you see it and come to love it.

Then, a man is saved last of all, when he understands something of the awful guilt of his sins and the price that Christ paid to put them away. *“He to whom much is forgiven will love much.”*

Listen to David in **Psalm 51**; he understood the guilt, the awful guilt of his sins and the terrible price that was paid for his redemption; he said: *“Have mercy upon me O God according to thy loving kindness, according to the multitude of thy tender mercies; blot out my transgressions.”*

“Wash me thoroughly from my sins. Cleanse me from my iniquities. I acknowledge my transgressions. My sin is ever before me. O God against thee and thee only have I sinned and done this evil in thy sight that thou mightiest be just when you condemn and clear when you judge. Behold; I was shapen in iniquity. In sin my mother conceived me. O God purge me with hyssop. Wash me and I will be whiter than the snow. Create in me a clean heart and renew within me a right spirit.”

That’s a man who knows the evil and consequence of sin!

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