

**Romans Session 151**  
**Israel's Failure Was Ignorance of the Person of God**  
**Ignorance of the place of Faith 4**

*Romans 10:4-10 (NASB)*

<sup>4</sup> *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

<sup>5</sup> *For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness.*

<sup>6</sup> *But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?'" (that is, to bring Christ down),*

<sup>7</sup> *or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)."*

<sup>8</sup> *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 are preaching,*

<sup>9</sup> *that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;*

<sup>10</sup> *for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*

We have been talking about Israel's of God's holiness and of His provision for salvations through His Son, Jesus Christ, and her ignorance of the place that faith had in the experience of salvation.

Because they relied upon their own works righteousness. They saw no need for salvation.

As we said last time together, the righteousness of faith does not require some mystical, esoteric, and impossible journey through the universe to find Christ, no matter what form it takes.

So, as Paul continues his personification of the righteousness based in faith;

<sup>6</sup> *But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?'" (that is, to bring Christ down),*

<sup>7</sup> *or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)."*

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<sup>10</sup> *for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*

In other words men do not have to ascend or descend to find it, because God's way of salvation had already been clearly and abundantly revealed.

His chosen people had been engulfed in and surrounded by the word of faith that Paul was now preaching. Even under the Old Covenant men could claim God's grace simply by receiving it in faith.

Much of western society today is like the Israel of Paul's day.

Although most unbelievers have a limited and often distorted concept of Christianity, they have a general idea of its claims and have access to Bibles, churches, and Christians through which they could easily discover the gospel if they honestly desired to.

Tragically, however, men still choose works-righteousness and suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

**Romans 1:18-20 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,*

<sup>19</sup> *because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.*

<sup>20</sup> *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.*

The way to be saved and to secure the righteousness God requires is the supreme essential.

Notably, there is great confusion in much of the Church today about God's way of salvation, but it is the same as it was when Paul wrote to Roman believers;

<sup>9</sup> *that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;*

<sup>10</sup> *for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*

Salvation and its attendant righteousness are appropriated by confession and by faith.

Following the order of verse 8, which quotes Deuteronomy 30:14

**Deuteronomy 30:14 (NASB)**

<sup>14</sup> *"But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it.*

Confession in the mouth and faith in the heart.

Paul gives them in the order of redemption, Faith believing with the heart, and then confession with the mouth.

Heart faith produces Righteousness

Mouth confession produces salvation

Those two truths represent the positive and the negative sides of God's redemptive grace.

The positive side reflects His own perfect righteousness, which He graciously imputes to and bestows on those who believe in His Son, Jesus Christ.

The believer is simultaneously declared righteous (justified) and made righteous (regenerated).

It is about that complete divine righteousness that Paul exults to the Philippians;

**Philippians 3:8-9 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup> *More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,*

<sup>9</sup> *and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,*

The negative side of God's work in the believer is salvation, divine deliverance from the sin that separates fallen man from a holy God.

**Righteousness** has to do with what we become, and **salvation**, has to do with what we escape.

The first relates to entering into blessedness, the second relates to escaping cursedness.

Unfortunately, those two aspects are often out of balance in evangelism and personal witnessing.

When deliverance from sin and hell is made paramount, God's gracious bestowal of His righteousness on believers is left in the shadows.

And therefore, unbelievers who have been repeatedly asked by Christians, are you saved? Might well give an ear to the gospel if they were asked instead, have you been made holy in Christ?

On the other hand, when God's love and grace are presented to the virtual exclusion of the need for salvation from sin and its judgment, cheapening of the gospel is almost inevitable.

Another contrast between the two verses is that, whereas verse 9 is a personal invitation to believe, focusing on the individual, verse 10 presents gospel truth concerning man in general.

Scripture never approves, much less commends, contentless faith, a faith in faith as it is often described. Paul here specified two truths that must be believe din order to be saved.

The first is that **Jesus Is Lord**, the second, that **God raised Him from the dead**.

**Many people** acknowledge that Jesus is both the Son of God and Lord of the universe.

But Paul is speaking of the deep, personal, abiding conviction that, without any reservation or qualification, will confess Jesus as Lord, that is will confess that Jesus is the believers own sovereign, ruling Lord, in whom alone he trusts for salvation and to whom he submits.

James teaches that even demons acknowledge truth about God.

In a pure factual sense, they are completely orthodox in their theology.

**James 2:19 (NASB)**

***<sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.***

James point is men can hold such demon belief, belief that is theologically correct but that does not include reception of Jesus as Lord.

People may be well aware of their sin, be under deep convictions about it, and even have a great emotional sense of guilt from which the long to be delivered.

But they do not repent and forsake the sin that caused the guilt, nor do they trust in the Savior who can forgive and remove the sin.

Speaking of such people the writer of Hebrew gives one of the most sobering warnings to be found in Scripture:

**Hebrews 6:4-6 (NASB)**

***<sup>4</sup> For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,***

***<sup>5</sup> and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,***

***<sup>6</sup> and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.***

In other words, a person can hold orthodox theology, lead a moral life, acknowledge his sin, desire eternal life, be scrupulously religious, and yet go to hell.

Jesus ran into such people in His early ministry.

**John 2:23-24 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> *Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing.*

<sup>24</sup> *But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men,*

They apparently acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah (believing in His name), and unlike the Pharisees they believed that His supernatural powers were from God. But they did not submit themselves to Him as their Lord and Savior.

That was also the response of the rich young ruler, who appeared to be willing to do whatever Jesus told him in order to inherit eternal life. Except acknowledge his sin and repent, as well as relinquish the riches which were his first love and then serve Jesus as Lord.

**Luke 9:57-62 (NASB)**

<sup>57</sup> *As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go."*

<sup>58</sup> *And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."*

<sup>59</sup> *And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father."*

<sup>60</sup> *But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God."*

<sup>61</sup> *Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home."*

<sup>62</sup> *But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

The Father repeatedly declared publicly that He had committed authority, power, judgment, and lordship into the hands of His Son

At Jesus Baptism, the Father announced from the heavens;

**Matthew 3:16-17 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> *After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him,*

<sup>17</sup> *and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."*

After the transfiguration, the Father declared;

**Matthew 17:2-5 (NASB)**

<sup>2</sup> *And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.*

<sup>3</sup> *And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.*

<sup>4</sup> *Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah."*

<sup>5</sup> *While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"*

Submitting to Christ's lordship is such an integral part of salvations that Paul testified;

**1 Corinthians 12:2-3 (NASB)**

<sup>2</sup> *You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the mute idols, however you were led.*

<sup>3</sup> *Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.*

When the Holy Spirit brings faith and salvations to a heart, that heart proclaims the lordship of Christ.

*Romans 14:9 (NASB)*

<sup>9</sup> *For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.*

In Philippians, Paul teaches that God has bestowed on Jesus Christ;

*Philippians 2:9-11 (NASB)*

<sup>9</sup> *For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,*

<sup>10</sup> *so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

<sup>11</sup> *and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

All mankind must recognize this and realize that as Lord all mankind should bow to Him in submission and in doing so they will be saved.