

# **“YOU WILL BE SAVED.”**

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**Scripture Texts: Romans 10:5-13**

## **Introduction.**

In chapters nine and ten of Paul’s letter to the Christians in the church in Rome, he is talking about salvation. He presents it as a coin with two sides. One coin, two sides.

In chapter nine Paul focused on God’s sovereignty over our salvation. God is God and God chooses according to the pleasure of His own will. Chapter nine can be summed up in verse 18: “He has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.”

In chapter ten Paul turns the coin over and focuses on man’s role in his salvation and his responsibility to believe in God. Chapter ten can be summed up in verse 13: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Some try to say this is a contradiction. But it is not, it is a paradox. A paradox is something that on the surface appears to be a contradiction, but in reality it is not. The reason it seems like a contradiction is because of our limited human understanding and perspective.

I can give you several examples of seemingly contradictory truths that we hold together as two sides of the same coin.

The nature of God as Trinity. God is both one and three. One God in three persons. How? That is the mystery, but we know both are true. It is to be believed even if we can’t fully understand it.

The nature of Jesus. Jesus is both fully God and fully man. How? Another mystery, but Scripture teaches both and holds both equally together as true.

The nature of the Bible. The Bible is both fully divine and fully human. God breathed through human authors.

The nature of salvation. God is sovereign over all things, and we are free moral agents who are responsible for our choices and decisions. Israel failed not because God failed, but because they failed to put their faith in Jesus.

**Romans 9:31-32** Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works.

But let's stop here and ask a question some of you may be thinking. What does the plight of ancient Israel have to do with us?

Why should Israel's failure to find righteousness and salvation matter to us? Paul's arguments seem so remote, so distant from the concerns of our day. What about Israel and Gaza today, Russia and Ukraine, Trump and Musk and DOGE, our NCAA Tournament brackets, and the price of eggs. I mean, really.

Why should we care about Jews and Gentiles in the first century? Why did God put this in our Bible for us to study? Because first century Israel is a mirror of our twentieth first century conscience. Israel is your and my conscience. What was going on with Israel historically is going on inside of you and me spiritually. Israel's struggle is our struggle, and if we are wise, we will learn from them and not do what they did.

**Romans 3:19** We know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

We will be held accountable to God for what we do with this truth.

God has written His law on every human heart, this is why our consciences condemn us when we fail to live up to God's law and sin against it. We are guilty and accountable. But God desiring to save guilty sinners has made a remedy for Israel's guilt and condemnation and it is relevant for us. God's remedy for saving guilty sinners is the same for Israel and the whole world and for us. Israel is a mirror of our conscience and our spiritual needs.

### **Romans 10:5-8**

The law was supposed to be the highway that led the way to Christ. Remember when Paul said:

**Romans 10:4** Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Christ is the destination to which the Law pointed. Christ is the whole point of the Law. His life and His work are the complete fulfillment of the Law, and this is so that His righteousness might be the righteousness of everyone who believes in Him, rather than them trusting in their own worthless righteousness.

If we want to be saved we have to be content with someone else's righteousness being given to us. And that means we must be content with having all of our good deeds and good works being counted as nothing and worthless by God, even despised and laughed at by God.

Not the good works done in faith, no, I mean all our good works done in self-righteousness, good works to earn God's favor, and to convince Him we are good enough for Him.

But the Jews turned the Law into the enemy of Christ, the Law replaced the need for the Messiah, the Law became their source of righteousness through morality, works and goodness. And man's righteousness always leads to self-righteousness. "If I am good at doing these things and good at avoiding those things, then I can feel superior about myself, I am better than you."

Religious people like to make religion complicated. Look at the other great religions of the world, the mystery religions and how hard they make it to achieve salvation or Nirvana or whatever the goal is. Plumb the depths of mantra induced meditation, pray these prayers over and over again, gain this knowledge, take that pilgrimage. Works, works, and more works. And all of this with little or no assurance.

Christianity is not like that, it is not hard. People who say they are searching for truth and salvation are often looking in all the wrong places. I just read an article this week about the huge upswing in people searching for God in mysticism, spiritism, satanism, astrology, psychedelic drugs, the occult, divination through tarot cards, shamanism (interacting with the spirit world through trances), and self-hypnosis.

If you think this stuff is too superstitious, too primitive, too absurd, too weird, it is going on in Evangelical churches with people who call themselves Evangelical Christians.

People are searching, looking, grasping, in all the wrong places. It is not hard.

That's what Moses said to the Israelites.

**Deuteronomy 30:11-14** "For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' 13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' 14 But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

The law of God was not hard to find, God brought it down, wrote it on tablets, gave it to Moses to bring down to them. Furthermore, God had put it in their mouth and on their heart. No excuses. No saying they didn't know.

Just as the Law was not hard or far off, neither is the Gospel, the word of faith for those who heard Paul preach.

You do not have to climb into the heavens to attain salvation—Christ has come down!  
You do not need to descend into the depths to attain it—Christ has been raised already!

Don't act like there has never been an incarnation, that Christ has not come down to us in the flesh. And don't act like there has been no resurrection from the grave.

This is the foundation of our faith. Life has been gained for us by Christ's life on earth, and death has been conquered for us by His death.

There is no need to look anywhere else, there is nothing further to be gained.

Does anyone have any questions about whether they will be in heaven or hell? Both of those doubts are removed by the righteousness that is ours by faith.

We don't have to ascend to the heavens or descend to the depths. Jesus is as near to you as my voice proclaiming to you His Gospel.

If the Law was easy to comprehend, how much easier is the Gospel to understand, when the Law pointed to Jesus. No one can plead ignorance. Christ had come down and walked among them.

### **Romans 10:9-10**

In verses 9-10 we are given a glorious summary of the Gospel, of what is to be believed for salvation. What must we do and believe to be saved?

***If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord.***

What is the importance of confessing Jesus is Lord?

Lord is used 6,000 times in the OT for God. Let there be no doubt, Paul is acknowledging Jesus is God. Jesus shares the name, nature, holiness, authority, power, majesty and eternity of the one and only true God.

This is not a superficial formula, not an easy believeism. This confession is that the Lord of heaven and earth is your Lord. Not just your Savior from sin, but your Lord for life, for your sanctification.

This is a confession of surrender and submission, a confession of repentance, of turning from sin and self. There is the sense of ownership Jesus has over those who acknowledge Him. "I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ."

He has our allegiance, trust and confidence. We are all in.

***If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead.***

In your heart of hearts, with all your heart. Not just mental assent, not just intellectual acknowledgement. You know in your knower.

God raised Jesus from the dead having borne the full wrath of God for your sin, having suffered hell for you, having paid in full the cost of your sin against a holy God, having ransomed your soul from the pit of hell. Believing that kind of raised from the dead.

Is this a two part process for salvation? Is this like part A and then part B? Is this like that annoying two step authentication process we have to go through to get into some of our apps or websites? First you have to do this, and then second you have to do this?

No. To confess with the mouth is not separate from believing in the heart. The mouth confesses what the heart believes.

Confession without faith is empty, faith without confession would be timid at best and cowardly at worst. If we won't confess Him with our mouth, He won't confess us.

**Luke 6:45** Out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

*You will be saved.*

You will inherit eternal life. This is our confident hope.

**Romans 10:11-13**

Paul concludes this passage by making four “for” statements. Four proofs, four assertions or reasons why what he is saying is true. His reasons are grounded on the authority of God's Word.

**Romans 10:11** *For* the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”

12 *For* there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;

... *for* the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.

13 *For* “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

**Isaiah 28:16** Whoever believes will not be in haste.

**Joel 2:32** It shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Notice the everyone and all language. Anyone who believes will be free from shame and guilt. There is no distinction, no difference, because the same Lord is Lord of all. He will richly, lavishly pour out the riches of all His blessings on all who call on Him. Everyone who calls on His name will be saved.

The salvation process does not distinguish by ethnicity, background, education level, religious history or moral blamelessness. Everyone who calls on God's name will be saved.

This means anyone from any race, any socio-economic class, this means people with tattoos, piercings, purple hair, holding signs on street corners, people who sin the worse sins, people we look down on, despise, judge, are disgusted by. They are all invited to confess Jesus Christ as their Lord, and surrender and submit their lives to His Lordship. They are all invited to believe in a risen Savior who by repentance of their sins are fully forgiven.

“The gospel is the most inclusive religious message ever proclaimed on the face of the earth, and it is creating the most inclusive community that has ever existed on earth. The gospel has produced the most demographically inclusive community the world has ever seen. What made the gospel in the first century scandalous was not whom it excluded, but whom it included. God gives salvation as a gift to all who will repent and receive it in humility and faith” (JD Greear).

### **Implications and application.**

What is necessary for salvation?

First, the fact of the historic Jesus Christ, incarnate, crucified, risen, ascended and reigning as Lord, who is accessible and available to all, to everyone who calls on Him.

Second, the Word of faith preached and proclaimed and heard which makes this Christ known.

Third, the heart responding in full belief, calling on the name of the Lord, combining faith with confession.

The Bible never once points to God as the reason someone rejects him.

Salvation is offered to you, right now, if you will receive it. Jesus said, “Whoever will, may come!” He wouldn't invite you if he didn't mean it. Do you sense right now you need to be saved? Then call on Him now,

Come to Him who has the water of life. Drink freely.

**John 4:14** Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

**Hebrews 3:12, 15** Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”