

## **Pt 36 Romans 10:5-11, Do You Believe in Your Heart?**

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We pick back up here in Romans Chapter 10 where we left off over a month ago. We've already covered the first 4-verses but for context's sake I want us to include them in our reading this morning.

### **Romans 10:1-4**

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

### **Romans 10:5-11**

5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

8 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;

9 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.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

We talked last time about Paul's deep desire to see all his fellow Jews saved. There in verse 1 he said it was his "**heart's desire**." And we studied where he said in **Romans 9:3** For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

Here in our opening text, he mentions what Moses taught in his day:

**Romans 10:5** For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

The Law was necessary for the Jews as a sign of obedience for righteousness. Keeping the Law did not and could not save them because keeping the Law was an act of the flesh, but righteousness comes through Faith.

That is why Paul said in **Romans 8:3-4** For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Paul realizes that not all Jews are going to place their faith in the man Jesus Christ for salvation and the LORD had called Paul to be a preacher unto the Gentiles so Paul's gospel message is one of faith to ALL who believe – both Jew and Gentile alike but Paul continues to emphasize to his fellow Israelites that it is not about their obedience to the Law but rather righteousness which comes through faith:

6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

These two verses are quotes from the Old Testament Book of Deuteronomy:

**Deuteronomy 30:11-13** For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. 12 It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? 13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

The point he is making is righteousness and salvation are not some kind of unattainable things. It's like saying "Oh, if I just had someone who could travel up to heaven and bring Christ down to me or to the far reaches of the sea to bring him to me then I could be saved. No, no, no, salvation is not unattainable for anyone. It is free for those who simply believe.

It is hard for you and I as Gentiles raised in a Christian society to understand the mindset of the Jews in Paul's day (or even our own day as far as that goes).

The Law had become a curse for those Jews who lived under it because there was absolutely no way they could continue to live in it.

Listen to what Paul wrote to the Church at Galatia: **Galatians 3:10-12** For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. 11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. 12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

So, if it does not require someone to go to heaven and bring down Christ or cross to the ends of the sea to bring him, how does one acquire salvation?

8 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;

Paul says, “the word is nigh thee.” In other words, it is nearby. It’s within your reach. It’s available for the taking. It’s simply “faith.” That is what Paul’s gospel message is, it is the message of faith. That’s why he said, “that is, the word of faith, which we preach.”

Naturally, the question the Jews would then ask is “**how is this possible?**”

Or, as the Jews said on the Day of Pentecost when Peter preached Jesus: **Acts 2:37... Men and brethren, what shall we do?**

And the Philippian jailer asked: **Act 16:30...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**

Paul’s answer is the same as every New Testament gospel preacher today: **9 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.**

It is one of the most quoted verses in all the Bible. It is one which we should always use whenever presenting someone with the Gospel. It is the answer to everyone’s question concerning salvation. There is no greater truth than this.

There is no work on our behalf involved. Christ performed all the work that goes into Salvation and that is what this is; the simple plan of salvation which is; believing the finished work of Christ on the cross and confessing and receiving Him as your Savior.

Paul goes on to say: **10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

Don’t let the Roman Catholics make you believe that word “confession” means you must tell all your sins to a Catholic Priest.

No, that word confession here means that you agree with God’s proclamation that His Son Jesus is the means of Salvation.

Paul gives us a clear definition of the Gospel and what we must believe:

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**

**1** Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

**2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

**3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

**4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

- 1) Christ died for our sins
- 2) He was buried
- 3) He rose again on the third day

We must believe that with all our heart. Notice twice that Paul says the requirement for righteousness is **believing in your heart**. It is not just believing in your mind or your brain, it is believing in your heart.

The truth is you can change many things in your mind. I’ve believed things before in my mind but later determined that I was wrong. I’ve had other people influence me to change my mind about things. But I have never been wrong about something I believed in my heart. When a man believes something in his heart, that’s it, there is no changing his mind.

Our hearts are connected to our thoughts, emotions, and desires. Whenever something is in your heart it causes you to desire it. It is like meeting the love of your life – I knew in my heart when I met my wife Mary that she was the only one for me. It caused me to desire to know everything about her and to be with her forever.

It should be no different when it comes to the Lord Jesus, if you believe on him with your heart, it should make you desire to make Him your Savior, to please him, to learn everything about him that you can.

I like our last verse: **11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**

Some have misunderstood this verse and take it to mean if you profess Jesus as Savior, you won’t be ashamed to tell people. You can look at it that way if you want but that’s not really what this verse is meaning.

Notice it says, “**For the scripture saith.**” Sometimes in the Bible you will read things such as “**for it has been said.**” Or “**as it has been written,**” Or, “**Ye have heard.**” This doesn’t necessarily mean it is something from the Scriptures. But, whenever you see the phrase “**scripture saith,**” or “**according to the scriptures,**” then you know it something that can be found in God’s Word. That phrase “**scripture saith,**” is found 6 different times in our King James Bible and it is always pointing you back to what has been written in God’s Word.

So what Paul is saying is something found in the Scriptures.

**...Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**

If you search through the Bible on the phrase “**shall not be ashamed,**” you will find it 6-times. Two of those times are from the Book of Isaiah:

**Isaiah 45:17** But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.

**Isaiah 49:23** And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

The meaning behind this is, those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ will not be put to shame. Their faith will become sight.