

Romans 10:13-17  
The Name that Saves

Attempt to give a basic intro to Romans

- This is an ominous task
- Romans is an immensely theologically deep book that lays out the entirety of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Paul penned this letter with the expectation he may never visit the recipients hence he wanted them to have a comprehensive understanding of the gospel
- Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones preached an expositional sermon series on the book of Romans
  - He preached each Friday night at Westminster Chapel in central London from October 1955 to March 1968
  - It was 366 sermons over roughly 12 ½ years
  - He made it through Chapter 14 verse 17 before his retirement in 1968 due to health reasons
  - He considered Romans as “first in importance”
  - His hope was: they would “not only help Christian people to understand more clearly the great doctrines of our Faith, but that (the sermons) will also fill them with a joy ‘unspeakable and full of glory’ and bring them into a condition in which they will be ‘lost in wonder, love, and praise’”. \*

Basic intro to Romans

- Written by Apostle Paul
- Likely written while he was in Corinth during spring of AD 57
- On his way to Jerusalem to deliver the offering from the Gentile churches to the Jewish church
- End of Paul’s third missionary journey
- Comprehensive work delineating sin/the human condition and the righteousness and justification available by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone

Key points to understand before we dive into the primary text

- Section 1: A summary of the book of Romans
  - Paul is inexplicably clear about the results of sin
    - Rom 3:23: *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
    - Rom 6:23: *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
  - Paul explains how we all come to be sinners
    - Rom 5:12: *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—*
    - That one man was Adam
  - But all is not lost

- Rom 5:18: *Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.*
    - That one act of righteousness is the sacrificial atoning death of Christ
    - Rom 3:24-26: *and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*
    - we are justified through Christ's death (propitiation = atonement/appeasement)
    - this grace is received through faith
    - God himself is the source of this righteousness, a just righteousness which doesn't overlook justice; justice is achieved by the atoning work of Christ
    - Christ is our justifier
    - Christ's righteousness is imputed to those who believe in and follow Him by grace through faith
  - So review:
    - Sin results in death
    - All humans are sinners because we inherit our sinful nature from Adam
    - Christ though came to save us from this sin and not only that but to make us righteous before God
- Section 2: The historical significance/setting for the book of Romans
  - Israel: God's Chosen People
    - From a Jewish worldview standpoint, there are two types of people: Jews & everyone else or the "Gentiles"
    - The Jews, the descendants of Abraham through Isaac through Jacob became the nation of Israel. So not every descendant of Abraham is a Jew, but all Jews are descendants of Abraham.
      - Ishmael & Esau
    - God renamed Jacob "Israel" hence his descendants make up the nation of Israel
    - When we say "nation" what is meant and is lost in translation/interpretation is that we are really talking about "people group"
  - Israel rejects the Messiah
    - Israel had the law, but they emphasized the law over and above the lawgiver thereby rejecting God
    - Israel had the writings of Moses and the Prophets (including the Psalms), but they completely missed the one who was prophesied
    - The result is, just as was prophetically told, that the message once rejected by the chosen, would be open to everyone

- We don't come to the table as an unequal. Regardless of whether you are a naturally born Jew or not, all of those who profess Jesus Christ are "grafted" into the nation of Israel
  - Rom 11:17: *But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree,*
- All those who follow Christ are "adopted" into God's family
  - Rom 8:15: *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"*
- Summary
  - God sent His Son to His chosen people, Israel
  - They rejected God's Son
  - God extended the invitation to all people (nations or people groups)
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- Part 3
- The Great Sending
  - Rom 10:13-17: *'For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. '*
  - v 13
  - everyone: the invitation is open to all. Family lineage and nationality doesn't matter. The Jews are not the only people group who have access to God. Because of Jesus' atoning work on the cross, every nation, every tribe is equally able to know God through His saving grace
    - but this is NOT universal. There is nowhere in scripture where we are given the impression that salvation is universal. Jesus himself is explicitly clear on this issue. Only those who trust in Him experience salvation.
      - John 14:6: *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*
      - Matt 7:23 – "depart from me"
      - Matt 21:44 – "whoever falls on this stone will be broken to pieces"
      - Matt 22:13 – "...throw him into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth"
      - Rev 20:15 – "anyone whose name is not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire"

- Any gospel contrary to the gospel that God's grace through faith in Jesus is the only way to heaven and eternity in His presence is a false gospel
  - That may sound offensive in 2021
  - I don't mean to be offensive
  - The gospel is offensive in and of itself so there is no reason for us to add to that!
  - That is not my statement; it is a statement straight from the Bible
  - Jesus leaves absolutely no door open except the door that leads through Him
  - God nowhere in His holy and inspired scriptures leaves a glimmer of hope that there is any salvation absent the salvation that is found by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone
- So what happens to those who do not hear about Jesus? Will their sins be excused? The Bible is also very clear on this.
  - Romans 1:18-22 *'For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, '... and it goes on, read the remainder of Chapter 1*
  - Those who never hear the name of Jesus, who are born, live, and die without ever hearing about Jesus, will spend eternity separated from him in a place the Bible describes as an eternal torture. Why? Because those who dwell there will be completely separated from God for eternity.
  - This should burden every follower of Christ!
- But those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved!
  - There is a way to escape God's eternal judgement
  - By believing not just *about* Jesus, but by believing *in*, trusting *in*, *surrendering to* the kingship of Jesus, there is salvation!
- But there is a substantial barrier and that barrier is that a person cannot call on a name that they have never heard
- *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?*
  - Here's the good news: God already had a plan for this. That plan is YOU!

- Matthew 28:19-20 - *'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'*
- The Disconnect<sup>5</sup>
  - In a recent Barna survey (2018), 47% of Millennials (47%) either agree or somewhat agree that “it is wrong to share one’s personal beliefs with someone of a different faith in hopes that they will one day share the same faith”
  - This is despite 96% of them feeling “part of my faith means being a witness about Jesus”
  - They were also the generation that felt they were most equipped to share their faith (73% “gifted”)
  - This is a huge disconnect!
  - The numbers for Gen X-ers are 27% & 97%, respectively & 19% & 95%, respectively for Baby Boomers. So while 27% and 19% are better numbers than 47%, that still means that 1 out of 4 & 1 out of 5 for Gen X-ers & Baby Boomers feel it is **wrong** to share their faith!
  - This is antithetical to the gospel!
  - How are those who need to hear about Jesus supposed to hear about Jesus if those who follow Jesus don’t tell them?!
  - Think about this. Do you really believe what the Bible says? What Jesus Himself taught? That the only way to salvation is through Christ and Christ alone? If you really believe this and you know someone doesn’t believe, then wouldn’t it be hateful not to share the hope you have in Christ. Not only this but we are **commanded** to share this good news by Jesus Himself!
- Preaching
  - What does it mean to “preach”? The Greek kerysso (kay-roos-so)
  - Verb often translated to formally “preach”
  - Also frequently used as “proclaim”
  - Sometimes also used as “teach”
  - I will boldly charge that Paul doesn’t mean that only a small number of formally educated men are charged with the proclamation of the gospel
  - This would be inconsistent with Jesus’ own teaching
  - Scripture speaks to instances of individuals, like Paul himself, who are primarily committed to the mission of spreading the gospel and thereby supported by the church
  - Scripture is also clear that all followers of Christ are to proclaim the good news about Christ and share it with others
- Sending “apostello” – ‘to send out’

- *And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?*
  - What does it mean to be sent?
  - When you look at scripture in totality, we should recognize there are 2 different ways we are sent
  - In essence all of us are “sent”
  - We are all commanded to share the gospel
  - All followers of Christ are under the Great Commission – to go and make disciples
  - Our church’s vision is “Making Disciples Here and Around the World”
  - We can’t do that without YOU!
  - Not everyone will be called to the mission field
  - God will not call nor expect all of us to pick up our families to move to a faraway country on the other side of the world
  - But God does call each and every one of us to share the gospel, the “good news” about Jesus Christ
  - *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. ’*
- Summary
  - In order to be saved, you must believe
  - In order to believe, you must hear
  - In order to hear, the message must be proclaimed
  - In order for the message to be proclaimed, people must be sent
- The Great Imbalance
  - Secret Church 2021
  - The world has a population of approximately 7.75 billion
  - Over 3 billion, approximately 40%, in over 7,000 people groups are unreached
  - The church spends approximately 1% of resources and sends approximately 3% of missionaries to unreached people groups
- What does this mean for Heritage Baptist Church?
  - First we all have to buy into the vision, the Great Commission
  - Pray for our church, that we would heed God’s call and that we would be intentional about reaching the nations
  - Remember we are all ambassadors for Christ in whatever walk of life he has called us
  - Whether you are a student, an employee, an employer, a retiree, a volunteer, a pastor, a long-term missionary; we are all called to share the gospel in our daily lives.
  - God has put you where he has put you for a reason
  - How do I do this?
  - Last week, Pastor Charlie shared a very simple way we can do this
  - I’d encourage each of you to pray. Charlie asked us to pray each day we put our shirts on that God would put people in our path. But we can pray each morning, regardless of which shirt we are putting on, that God would put people in our

path that we can minister to, and we can pray that He will equip us to meet whatever needs they have.

- Here's a great encouragement. This is NOT dependent on you. YOU are NOT responsible for the OUTCOME. YOU ARE responsible for OBEDIENCE. God will not judge you on metrics. God will judge you on obedience (at the heart level).
- So as we go today, let's all go as those who are sent to share and proclaim the good news about Jesus Christ
  - *Rom 10:13-15a – For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?*

#### Small group questions

1. What is our state before God prior to salvation by grace through faith in Christ?
2. What is our state before God after salvation by grace through faith in Christ?
3. What happens to those individuals who never hear the gospel and/or about Jesus?
4. How can God be just in his condemnation of those who have never heard of the name of Jesus? (This is a hard question for many to reconcile. Rom 9:14-24 may be helpful.)
5. What is the Great Commission and to whom does it apply?
6. What is the Great Imbalance?
7. Ask members to identify one area or opportunity in their life that they will strive to change over the next 1-2 weeks to become more obedient to God's calling in their life.

\*<https://www.mljtrust.org/free-sermons/book-of-romans/>

\$<https://www.barna.com/research/millennials-oppose-evangelism/>