

# SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

**ROM. 10:1** 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.**

**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.**

## NOTES

# Saved by Faith

Lesson Text: Romans 10:1-10

Related Scriptures: Romans 3:21-26; Deuteronomy 30:11-16;  
Matthew 10:32-38

TIME: A.D. 56

PLACE: from Corinth

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**GOLDEN TEXT**—“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” (Romans 10:9).

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## *Lesson Exposition*

### **PRAYING FOR THE LOST— Rom. 10:1-2**

**Paul's desire (Rom. 10:1).** As Romans 10 opens, Paul's sentiments echo what he has already written: “I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh” (9:2-3).

More than anything else, Paul longed for and prayed to God that Israel might be saved. While it is true that Israel was chosen by God for a special role in His plan, each Jewish person also needed faith to be saved.

**Israel's zeal (Rom. 10:2).** As a nation, Israel not only knew about the one true God, but they were also very zealous for Him.

While having knowledge without faith is insufficient, having correct knowledge is vitally important. As God said to ancient Israel, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee” (Hos. 4:6).

### **PURSUING RIGHTEOUSNESS— Rom. 10:3-8**

**Willing ignorance (Rom. 10:3-4).** Since most of Israel had rejected Jesus as their Messiah, they had not submitted themselves to God's way of righteousness through Jesus Christ. Instead, they had established their own means of attaining righteousness, which was wholly inadequate. In Scripture, righteousness is not something we achieve but something we receive through faith in Christ alone.

Christ is the “end of the law” (vs. 4), meaning He is the fulfillment, aim, and purpose of the law (Matt. 5:17).

**Works of the law (Rom. 10:5-6).** Leviticus 18:5 says, “Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them.” Paul quotes this verse in Romans 10:5.

In contrast to righteousness based on the law is the righteousness that comes by faith. This righteousness takes a completely different approach. Righteousness based on the law emphasized doing works on

one's own, whereas righteousness by faith stresses trusting in Another for righteousness.

**Word of faith (Rom. 10:7-8).** The quotation used by Paul in verses 6-8 comes from Deuteronomy 30:11-14. Moses knew at this point that his days were numbered. Hence, he delivered a series of sermons to the people of Israel before they entered the Promised Land.

Interpreting the above text in light of the gospel, Paul declares that it was not necessary for a person to have Christ come down from heaven or to bring Him up from the dead in order for them to know Him as Lord, especially since Jesus already had risen. This, as Paul says, is "the word of faith, which we preach" (Rom. 10:8) and is sufficient to bring the message of redemption to a lost world. "The word of faith which Paul preached was the historical event of the death and resurrection of Christ" (Allen, ed., *Broadman Bible Commentary*, Broadman).

### **PROFESSING FAITH IN CHRIST— Rom. 10:9-10**

To confess Christ with the mouth might be called the Good Confession. Paul reminded Timothy that he had "professed a good profession [or confession] before many witnesses" (1 Tim. 6:12). Before Pilate, Jesus Himself made the "good confession" by affirming His identity (vs. 13).

Not only must we believe in our hearts that Christ died for our sins and arose the third day, we must be willing to acknowledge this openly. That such a confession is vitally important is seen from the words of Christ to His disciples: "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is

in heaven" (Matt. 10:32-33).

It should be noted that simply stating that we believe in Jesus is insufficient unless we truly trust Him as Lord and Saviour. Note also that belief in the bodily resurrection of Christ is not optional; it is essential, as it is the cornerstone of the Christian faith (cf. 1 Cor. 15:12-57).

It is possible to believe much about Jesus and remain unsaved, since we must be willing to actually commit ourselves to Christ and to depend on Him and Him alone for justification.

—John Alva Owston.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. What did Paul pray for regarding Israel?
2. What was unfortunately true about Israel's zeal for God, according to Romans 10:2?
3. What kind of righteousness did the Jews attempt to establish?
4. How does Paul describe Christ's relationship to the law?
5. What is the contrast between the righteousness of law and the righteousness of faith?
6. What point is Paul making from the quotation from Deuteronomy?
7. What was the "word of faith" that Paul preached (vs. 8)?
8. What are we doing when we confess Christ?
9. What essential Christian doctrine must be believed in the heart?
10. Can a person believe in Christ and still be unwilling to confess Him? Explain.

—John Alva Owston.

## PRACTICAL POINTS

1. We should desire salvation for those we love (Rom. 10:1-2).
2. Salvation requires specific doctrinal knowledge of God the Father and Jesus Christ (vss. 3-5).
3. Salvation is readily accessible for those who seek the Lord (vss. 6-8).
4. True believers will freely confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour (vs. 9).
5. True faith in Christ is faith in His resurrection.
6. True faith connects what our hearts know and believe with what our mouths confess (vs. 10).

—Valante M. Grant.

## RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION

1. Why is it important for believers to desire salvation for others (Rom. 10:1)? What happens if we do not?
2. Since so many people remain unsaved, what does this tell us about the role the Holy Spirit plays in salvation? Discuss.
3. Discuss the role open confession plays in coming to Christ.
4. Does the law have the power to save anyone? By what power are we saved?
5. What would you say if you were asked to explain to someone how to be saved? Discuss.
6. Think about the day that you were saved. How does your experience compare with Paul's description of salvation (vss. 9-10)?

—Valante M. Grant.

## Golden Text Illuminated

**“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” (Romans 10:9).**

Salvation is not something distant one must be constantly working toward. The golden text states the simple truth: To be saved one must confess Jesus and believe in his or her heart that God raised Him from the dead. The confession here is not mere words; it is confession of Jesus as Lord, God in the flesh, and it comes from a heart of genuine faith in Jesus' resurrection. Confession is the evidence of true faith. Paul is succinct here, but he is saying nothing he has not already stated. Salvation comes through faith in Christ and is based on His death and bodily resurrection.

It is typical of the world's belief systems to view good works as a sort of merit system to “buy” one's way into heaven. The idea is that if you perform a certain number of works and live a good life, you will be OK.

The truth is exactly the opposite. Before God, our works are painfully inadequate (Isa. 64:6). No matter what we do, we could never measure up to the standard set by God. The only way to be saved is through faith. We must believe and trust in Jesus for our salvation.

Because of Jesus, there is no need to appease God through sacrifices or good deeds. We who trust in Jesus do not need to try to buy our way into God's favor. We are already in right standing with Him because of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:28).

—Jennifer Francis.