

The Simplicity of Salvation Through Faith Romans 10:5–13

5 For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, “The man who does those things shall live by them.” 6 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) 7 or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 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 preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

I know that it seems that Paul is repeating himself and he is. He is using every tool that he has to convince the Jews that they cannot be saved by keeping the law.

And in this passage this morning we have one of the most beautifully simple explanations of the plan of salvation in all the scriptures.

I. The Way of Righteousness through the Law.

- A. 5 For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, “The man who does those things shall live by them.”
- B. Leviticus 18:5 (NKJV) 5 You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.
- C. But John Gill states the problem, “. . . that the righteousness of the law lies in doing and keeping those statutes, **not merely externally, but internally**, with all the heart, and soul, and strength; the law requires love to God, fear of him, and faith in him, and an inward disposition of the mind towards him, and a conformity of heart and nature to his law, as well as outward obedience; and all this is to be done perfectly and completely in every punctilio the law requires, otherwise no life is to be expected, nor any righteousness to be had by it.” *John Gill, An Exposition of the New Testament, vol. 2*
- D. Therefore because of the weakness of human flesh, no one can keep the law.
 1. That is why teaching so is a false gospel.
 2. Ga 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

II. What faith is not.

- A. 6 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) 7 or,

“ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

1. Deuteronomy 30:11–14 (NKJV) 11 “For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 13 Nor 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, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

B. The Jews always wanted a sign in order to believe.

1. John 2:18 So the Jews answered and said to Him, “What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?”
2. 1 Corinthians 1:22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;
3. Matthew 16:1 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. 2 He answered and said to them, “When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red’; 3 “and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. 4 “A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.” And He left them and departed.
4. Mark 8:11 Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him.
5. But even the one sign that Jesus gave them was not able to give them faith.
 - a. Matthew 12:38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” 39 But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 “The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.
6. And there are some today that think that signs and wonders is how to get people to believe.
 - a. But remember what we just read.

III. The availability of the Gospel

- A. 8 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 preach):
- B. The gospel is available to all who will hear.
 - 1. The gospel has gone through out the world.
 - 2. You do not have to be rich.
 - 3. Or super smart.
 - 4. Or crafty
 - 5. Or bold
 - 6. Or any other human characteristic, it is just there.

IV. The Simplicity of the Gospel

- A. 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- B. Confess Jesus as Lord.
 - 1. The words mean Savior and Master.
 - 2. In Jesus we have a Savior who died for our sins.
 - 3. He suffered and died in our place.
 - 4. But in taking Him as Savior of our lives He must also be Lord.
 - 5. Lord is the term used to translate YAHWEH throughout the Septuagint version of the Old Testament.
 - 6. To call Jesus Lord is to confess Him as God.
- C. Believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
 - 1. It is not an intellectual ascent that God is looking for.
 - 2. Deuteronomy 6:5 “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
 - 3. Notice what 2 Kings 23:25 says about the good King Josiah, “Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him.”
 - 4. Deuteronomy 5:29 (NKJV) 29 **Oh, that they had such a heart** in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!

5. Deuteronomy 6:5-12 (NKJV) 5 You shall love the LORD your God **with all your heart**, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. 10 "So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, 11 houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant--when you have eaten and are full-- 12 then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.
6. Deuteronomy 13:3 (NKJV) 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God **with all your heart** and with all your soul.
7. Deuteronomy 30:6 (NKJV) 6 And the LORD your **God will circumcise your heart** and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God **with all your heart** and with all your soul, that you may live.
8. Many people have believed in their heads only to have someone convince them otherwise, but when someone believes in their heart there is no changing that God given faith.

D. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness,

1. Righteousness does not come by the law.
2. Righteousness does not come by being good.
3. Righteousness come by faith alone and Christ alone.
4. What excuse will people give God for not believing?
 - a. It is easy, it is simple, it doesn't cost anything of value.
 - b. A cripple can do it. The blind can believe. The deaf can believe.
 - c. There is no excuse for those who reject Jesus.

E. And with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

1. God doesn't have any secret agents.
2. Jesus made it very plain.

3. Matthew 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

V. The Freeness of the Gospel

A. 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

1. Joel 2:32 (NKJV) 32 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

B. Whoever, Jew or Greek who will in simple faith call upon the Lord will be saved.

God’s salvation is available today for all who will come to Jesus in repentance and faith.

Law of Righteousness	Faith Righteousness
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Only for the Jew	For “whosoever”
Based on works	Comes by faith alone
Self-righteousness	God’s righteousness
Cannot save	Brings salvation
Obeys the Lord	Call on the Lord
Leads to pride	Glorifies God

Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 548.

How Faith Does Not Speak

The second religion Paul writes about in these verses is the religion of signs and wonders, which he introduces as a way the religion of faith does not speak. The text reads, “But the righteousness that is by faith says: ‘Do not say in your heart, “Who will ascend into heaven?” ’ (that is, to bring Christ down) ‘or “Who will descend into the deep?” ’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)’ (vv. 6–7). *James Montgomery Boice, Romans: God and History, vol. 3 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991–), 1175.*