

# NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

## — A Study of Romans —

Lesson Twenty

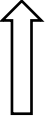
Romans 10:1-21

*...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*Romans 10:9*

### Day 1

#### Pray:



*Father, may this time in your word draw me to you—to knowing you better, loving you more and enjoying your presence. Through your Spirit, teach me, and help me to understand and apply your truth to my life.*

**Read:** Romans 10:1-21. Read it again in another translation such as NLT.

#### Observe:

- Write key words and themes, repeated words, or phrases. Circle on your Scripture pages any transition words (therefore, but, because, if/then etc.)
- Are there any commands to be obeyed, or truths to be trusted?
- What questions do you have about the text?

## Day 2- Romans 10:1-4

1. In Chapter 9 we learned about election—God’s sovereignty in salvation. Here in verse 1 what do we see Paul doing that is totally compatible with election?
2. What is lacking in the people of Israel’s zeal according to verse 2?

### For Discussion

How do people today show zeal without knowledge?

How could zeal without knowledge be dangerous?

Why is sincerity in our beliefs not enough?

3. What was the knowledge they were lacking according to verse 3?
  - a. In what ways are people ignorant of the righteousness of God?
  - b. How do people seek to establish their own righteousness?
  - c. Paul says it’s not just that people are ignorant—but that they don’t submit. Why do people not want to submit to God’s righteousness?

## Picture and Ponder

"The first step to obtaining the righteousness of God is to renounce our own righteousness."<sup>1</sup>

4. In verse 4 Paul sums up the stumbling stone (9:33)—what it is that the Jewish people would not submit to. Put in your own words why the law as a way of righteousness is ended.

## Picture and Ponder

"Christ is the end of the law because God grants righteousness to all who believe, not all who work."<sup>2</sup>



Today we call it virtue signaling. Paul calls it establishing your own righteousness. In essence, it's trying to be your own savior. Even as followers of Jesus we can fall back into this trap. It happens when we get doubts about our salvation and look to our list of good things we've done instead of looking to the goodness of Jesus credited to our account. It happens when we sin and instead of repenting, we try to make it up to God by doing a little extra. Jesus is the end of this kind of living. Keep turning to him and trusting in his righteousness.

- ◆ Can you think of other ways you try to be your own savior instead of relying on the righteousness of Jesus?
- ◆ "Are you naturally someone who needs to add zeal to your knowledge, or knowledge to your zeal?"<sup>3</sup> How might you remedy this?

## Day 3- Romans 10:5-10

1. What is the law's way of making a person righteous according to verse 5? (See NLT)

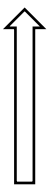
### Digging Deeper

In verses 6-8 Paul references Deuteronomy 30:1-14. Paul is saying that the righteousness that comes by faith is not hard for us to attain. We don't have to climb up to heaven or descend to the depths to get it. Read the verse from Deuteronomy, below. Why is the righteousness that comes by faith **not** hard to attain?

*And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. Deuteronomy 30:6*

Romans 5-7 teaches us that keeping the law is unattainable, but Jesus is not unattainable.

- a. What has Jesus done that we don't have to climb up to heaven to try and attain righteousness? (See John 1:1 for help)
- b. What has Jesus done that we don't have to descend into the place of the dead? (See Romans 8:34 for help)



*Thank you, Jesus, that I didn't have to search for you— because I never would have. You have come to me and reached out and brought me near! You have done everything necessary to make me right with God. Thank you Jesus!*

2. In Verse 8 Paul is still referencing Deuteronomy 30 and he quotes verse 14. Here Paul says, righteousness by faith is near; it is not far away in heaven or in the depths. It is so near that it is in our heart and mouth. In what way is the righteousness that comes through faith, in our heart and mouth according to verse 9?

Scholar's Note: The *word of faith* in verse 8 is the gospel message.

3. In verse 9, how does the NLT translate the word *confess*?
  - a. What does it mean to say that Jesus is your **Lord**?
  - b. What is the significance of believing **in your heart**? What other kinds of belief are there?

Scholar's Note: "...here [in verse 9], Christ's resurrection is shorthand for everything he has done to deliver us."<sup>4</sup>

### Picture and Ponder

"We are to transfer our trust from our own efforts to be righteous to Christ's righteousness on our behalf. That is the faith that saves—not merely a general belief that Christ lived or in his teaching. We must trust in his work (his death and resurrection) for us."<sup>5</sup>

### For Discussion

Confessing with your mouth is part of believing with your heart. It is not a separate “work” that you have to do to be saved. Why do inward belief and outward confession belong together?

Scholar’s Note: “There is no substantive difference here [in verse 10] between being *justified* and being *saved*. The parallelism is reminiscent of Hebrew poetry in the Old Testament.”<sup>6</sup>

### **Day 4 Romans 10:11-15**

1. What words or phrases in verses 11-13 show that Jesus is equally accessible to all?
  
2. If you are able, look up verse 11 in different translations. (You can go to Biblegateway.com and type in the verse, then look below and click on all English translations) What other words and phrases are used for **not be put to shame**?
  - a. What other words are used for the word *believe*?
  
3. According to verse 12, why does faith in Jesus render differences in race, (and sex, and culture as well) irrelevant?
  - a. Do you see struggles with this truth continuing to be a problem in the Christian world and if so, how?

4. Many people fear that to become a Christian means giving up so much. How does verse 12 show this to be unfounded?
  - a. How have you found this to be true?
  
5. From verses 14-15, write out the chain that needs to take place for people to call on the name of Jesus.

Scholar's Note: "The word translated "preaching" is *kerysso*, which means to be a "herald" or to make announcements. A herald was, in a sense, a living newspaper; heralds were a major means of transmitting news by making announcements in the marketplace and city streets. So the word "preach" does not refer only to what today are called "sermons." Heralds operated in the streets."<sup>7</sup>



*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news (v.15).* God in his wisdom and goodness has chosen his people to be the instruments he uses to bring the rest of his people to him. And God says that it is beautiful! He foreknows, he predestines, he calls, he justifies, and he glorifies, but he has given us a part to play in his plan. He could have done it another way, and maybe we sometimes wish he did. Do we understand what a privilege it is to be his ambassadors, his witnesses, his heralds of the good news?!

- ◆ Are there people in your sphere of influence who have never heard the good news from you? If so, talk to God and think about how you could remedy this.

## Day 5 Romans 10:16-21

1. Remember Paul has been explaining the unbelief of Israel. How does he put it succinctly, in verse 16a?
  - a. How do you **obey** the gospel?
2. Paul asks in verses 18 and 19 why the Jewish people have not obeyed the gospel. What reasons does he rule out for their unbelief?
3. Look back to 9:25, 30. Who is Paul referring to in verses 19 and 20?
  - a. How does the fact that the Jews were angry and jealous that the Gentiles accepted the gospel show that they understood?

### Picture and Ponder

"...when biblical teaching makes a listener angry, it often indicates that the person understands a message and dislikes it. That may not be the end of the matter, since the person is at least weighing the teaching—and that makes him or her accountable."<sup>8</sup>

4. In verse 21 Paul quotes God speaking in Isaiah 65:2. What was God doing in the face of their unbelief?



a. What does this show of God's heart?

b. It wasn't that the Jewish people hadn't heard the gospel or understood it. What is the reason the Jewish people did not obey the gospel?



In chapters 9 and 10 we have seen Paul's heart for his fellow Jews. He is brokenhearted over their unbelief and longs and prays for them to be saved. This sorrow does not keep him from accepting two truths that live alongside each other. The first is that God is sovereign in salvation. He is the decisive force that brings someone to himself. The second truth is that those who don't believe the gospel are contrary and disobedient and are accountable for their rejection of God. We feel the uncomfortable tension of this in our limited human perspective. God teaches this in his word, but he does not spell out his divine logic for us in clear detail. This is his prerogative—he is God, and we are not. Our part is to believe him and trust in his great love, mercy, goodness and wisdom.

- ◆ How can the mysteries of God's ways deepen your relationship with him?
  
- ◆ What truths about God help you to trust him in the tension and mysteries?
  
- ◆ Prayer is another means through which God works to accomplish his will. Spend time in prayer for those God has put in your path who don't know him.



*Father, help me to trust your goodness, wisdom and love. All you do is best and right. Help me to think your thoughts and see with your eyes. And help me to love you above all else.*

## One Thing:

What is one thing from this week's study that God has impressed on your heart, or convicted you about; is there something new that you learned or is there a verse you want to ponder and meditate on?

Praise God for this and thank him for the work he is doing in your life. Ask him to help you remember this and live it out for his glory.

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<sup>1</sup> Calvin as quoted in Stott, John. R. *The Message of Romans* p.281 Intersity Press 1994

<sup>2</sup> Doriani, Daniel M.. *Romans* (p. 486). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition

<sup>3</sup> Keller, Timothy. *Romans 8-16 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading* (God's Word For You - Romans Series Book 2) (p. 81). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

<sup>4</sup> Doriani, Daniel M.. *Romans* (p. 505). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>5</sup> Keller, Timothy. *Romans 8-16 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading* (God's Word For You - Romans Series Book 2) (p. 82). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

<sup>6</sup> Stott, John. R. *The Message of Romans* p.283 Intersity Press 1994

<sup>7</sup> Keller, Timothy. *Romans 8-16 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading* (God's Word For You - Romans Series Book 2) (p. 84). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

<sup>8</sup> Doriani, Daniel M.. *Romans* (p. 528). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.