

Romans

SALVATION FOR ALL WHO BELIEVE

Focal Verses • ROMANS 10:5-17

Aim for Change

By the end of this lesson, we will: EXAMINE Paul's confidence in the salvation offered in Christ; FEEL justified through our faith in Christ; and EMBRACE with joy the possibility for all.

In Focus

Joyce was a trained and certified public accountant who had been using her gifts as an administrator at her church several days a week. She loved ministering to people but her day job had her secluded in a cubicle with little interaction with other people. For three months, Joyce had been looking for work but no doors were opening for her. She prayed that the Lord would give her a job where she would have the opportunity to share the Gospel with her fellow co-workers.

One morning, Joyce received a call from a local rehabilitation center that had gotten her name from a former employee. The personnel director was so impressed by Joyce's work ethic and resume, he asked Joyce if she would be interested in training men and women who had just been released from prison so that they might successfully return to society and work. She asked for a week to consider.

Joyce continued looking for employment in her field, but nothing materialized. After several sleepless nights, Joyce wondered if this assignment was an answer to her prayer. She decided to step out on faith and take the position.

Within the first month, God gave Joyce favor with her supervisor, Mr. Foster, so she could start a weekly Bible study. More than 75% of the patients attended and Joyce was able to lead many of them to Christ. Nearly everyone Joyce trained was successful in finding good paying jobs and becoming witnesses for Christ where they worked.

In today's lesson, we are reminded of God's salvation plan.

Keep in Mind

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13, KJV).



Focal Verses

KJV **Romans 10:5** 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.

12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The People, Places, and Times

Word of Faith. The apostle's letter reaffirms the basic doctrine of salvation by faith—not works—available to Jews and Gentiles alike. He also affirms that preaching as a form of word-of-mouth promotion continues to be a primary way to spread the Gospel and to build a foundation of faith necessary to desire and receive salvation.

Israel in God's Plan of Salvation. In Romans, the Apostle Paul addresses Israel's past election, present rejection of the Gospel, and their future salvation. How could God's promise to Abraham and the nation of Israel remain valid while the nation of Israel as a whole seems to have no part in the spread of the Gospel? Paul maintains that God's promise to Israel has not failed because the promise was meant only for "true Israel"—meaning, those who were faithful

to the promise (see Genesis 12:1–3; 17:19). Paul contends that Israel's failure to respond to Christ is not due to an unconditional decree of God but to their unbelief and disobedience (see Romans 10:3).

The apostle also affirms that Israel's rejection is only partial and temporary. The nation will eventually accept God's salvation in Christ. God has turned Israel's transgression into an opportunity to proclaim salvation to all the world. Belief in Jesus Christ by a portion of national Israel will take place in the future. The Scriptures are full of promises of the eventual restoration of Israel to God through their acceptance of the Messiah. (See Isaiah 11:10–16.)

What role does the modern nation of Israel have in God's salvation plan for Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob's descendants?

Background

Born a Jew, Paul was highly educated in the Jewish faith and understood the doctrine, teaching, and workings of the Law. His education, training, and love for the Law contributed to his zealous opposition of Christians and their teachings. As a former persecutor of Christians, therefore, he understood how zeal for a cause could turn a person into a murderous opponent.

After his dramatic conversion while traveling to Damascus to detain and imprison Christians (Acts 9), Paul became a defender of the faith he had until then, despised. More so, he became the apostle to the Gentiles and the one directly called to reach his former enemies.

In addressing the believers at the church of Rome, Paul confesses his fervent prayer that his Jewish brothers would be saved. He relates that he can “bear record” of their zeal without knowledge, referring to his former anti-Christian activities.

Finally, he makes it clear that the church of Rome should not become cocky in their position in Christ, because God plans to restore a remnant of Israel. Rather, Paul admonishes Gentile believers not to get conceited about their faith in light of Israel’s present disobedience.

Paul enlightens these Gentile and Jewish believers about the futility of trying to be saved by the Law. He shows them and us today that no one can meet such high standards set by the Law and be saved. After all, we are all sinners. He wants us to appreciate that to be saved by the Law, a person would have to live a perfect life and no one but Jesus Christ Himself could do that. Sinning even one time would mean that we would be lost.

Paul explains further that God gave the Law, not to save us, but to show us how guilty we are before a Holy God; to show us our lostness, our dilemma. The sacrificial system of the Law educated people of their need for a lamb without blemish. That lamb is Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:1–4).

Why did God give Moses the Law if it could not save?

3. We are Saved Through Jesus Christ, the Only Way (vv. 6–7)

Jesus is the end of the Law. With His death, burial, and Resurrection, He fulfilled the purpose and goal of the Law (Matthew 5:17). Unlike Jesus Christ, however, the Law cannot save anyone. Nothing can bridge the gap between a holy God and sinful man. Receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is the only way. The salvation that God offers is a gift and we need to respond and receive it, or be lost forever. God’s salvation is right in front of us. Paul emphasizes the closeness of salvation, and how simple God has made it to be restored to Him. Faith in Christ is not too high above us, up in heaven where we cannot reach. It is not down in the depths of the earth, in realms of darkness and death.

3. We Must Become Christians, but How? (vv. 8–13)

Sin has cut us off from God, but Paul explains how to get back to God and be saved. It is not a complicated process, but based on a simple faith in the finished work of Jesus on the Cross. God said that if we confess with our mouths that

At-A-Glance

1. We Cannot be Saved by the Law
(Romans 10:5)

2. We are Saved Through Jesus Christ,
the Only Way (vv. 6–7)

3. We Must Become Christians,
but How? (vv. 8–13)

4. We Must Take the Good News
to Others (vv. 14–17)

In Depth

1. We Cannot be Saved by the Law (Romans 10:5)

Jesus is Lord, and believe in our heart that God, Himself, raised Jesus from the dead; then we are saved (v. 9). This profession can be made by both Jews and Gentiles alike (v. 12) because with God there is no favoritism when it comes to salvation (Romans 2:11). Paul wanted both Jews and Gentiles to know in this letter that our sins point out our need for a Savior. We need to be cleansed and made whole—and only Jesus can do that.

4. We Must Take the Good News to Others (vv. 14–17)

God is calling us to bring the Good News of salvation to others. Through our Christian living, loving, teaching, and preaching; they will know that we follow Christ. If God’s Spirit is indeed in us, we will obey this command. If this is not true of us, then we need to examine ourselves seriously before the Word.

As Paul explains the process of calling, believing, hearing, telling, and sending, we understand the large network within the Church that evangelism requires to reach souls for the Gospel. Often we think of evangelism as a task for others with that specific spiritual gift, but everyone in the Church should be using their gifts, time, and talents to further the ultimate goal of evangelism everywhere.

Are all Christians responsible for preaching the Gospel to non-Christians? What does that look like?

Search the Scriptures

1. What must a person believe about God and Jesus to receive salvation (Romans 10:9)?
2. How does God use the preacher (v. 14)? Can just anyone be a preacher (v. 15)?

Discuss the Meaning

1. What kind of preaching do we need in order to build faith?
2. Why does God seem to have a special place in His heart for Israel if He shows no favoritism?

Liberating Lesson

God surely has a sense of humor. Religious, racial, and economic barriers separate people and fuel hatred and discord. But, just when we think we know it all and are better than everyone else, God provides a Damascus Road experience to shed light on our own unrighteousness and neediness. Our perceived enemies today may be our mission fields tomorrow. Jesus died and was resurrected because of God’s love for all persons. How does knowing this make it easier to share your faith with nonbelievers?

Application for Activation

There are people all around you who need to hear the Good News of salvation. Determine in your heart and carry out the plan of witnessing to someone in your family, on your job, or in your community. Pray first and ask God to show you someone who needs a Savior and then, help you to find the right time, place, and words to obey His command.

Follow the Spirit

What God wants me to do:

Remember Your Thoughts

Special insights I have learned:

Sources:

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Say It Correctly

Esaias. eh-SIGH-us.
Midrash. MIDD-rash.

Daily Bible Readings

DAY 253

Ezekiel 34-36

DAY 254

Ezekiel 37-39

DAY 255

Ezekiel 40-42

DAY 256

Ezekiel 43-45

DAY 257

Ezekiel 46-48

DAY 258

Daniel 1-3

DAY 259

Daniel 4-6

Notes
