**ROMANS 10**

In chapter nine the Apostle Paul has been making the point that **even Gentiles** could be saved because they sought salvation… through grace… AND by faith.

WE STILL DO!

BUT… The Jews in Paul’s day were STILL trying to attain salvation through their works… & Good deeds… Or by obeying the Law to the best of their ability.

THEY STILL DO!

Salvation can **ONLY** be found by faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. So, the Apostle continues to tell of his deep feelings for the salvation of Israel…

**Romans 10:1** Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.

* What a great example for us – Paul turned his desires into prayers!
* It reminds me of **Psalm 37:4** - Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal ***(fervent mind)*** for God, but not according to knowledge.

* NLT – In misdirected zeal.

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, ***(Which is through Christ)*** and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ *is* the end ***(Completion)*** of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

* There are very zealous and religious people knocking and calling and standing around at stores and public places but they are doing these works without the knowledge of the grace of Jesus Christ.
* Listen beloved… Let’s NOT be guilty of the same thing – Depending on being good to get into God’s heaven. There is ONLY ONE WAY IN – Through Jesus. ***JOHN 14:6*** Being good is not enough!

**THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION TO ALL**

5 For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "THE MAN WHO DOES THOSE THINGS SHALL LIVE BY THEM." **LEVITICUS 18:5**

* The problem with this – NO MAN EVER DID IT! (Well, Jesus did!)

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). **DET. 30:12**

* IE, Do not think that salvation is too far removed for you to find…
* Do not make this too difficult… Listen…

8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART" **DET. 30:14** (that is, the word of faith which we preach)

* Salvation through Jesus Christ is readily available to you… It is close by!

**JUST SAY IT!**

9 that if you confess with your mouth the **Lord** Jesus **(IE, make Jesus your Lord)** 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.

* Making Jesus your Lord is making Jesus your Master… AND… Loving it!
* IF I say that Jesus is my Lord, but I do not obey His will… What am I? (ouch)
* If you are thinking that it is a disgrace to be Lorded over by God, listen up.

11 For the Scripture says, "**WHOEVER** BELIEVES ON HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME." **ISAIAH 28:16**

* The day WILL come when the trials of this life will be avenged forever!

**ALL SOULS MATTER**

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." **JOEL 2:32**

* BTW, Notice the two **WHOEVER’S**?
* Salvation is close, available, and OPEN to all people!
* AND… There should be evidence of our salvation. The evidence does not save us, It proves our salvation.

**PREACH IT!**

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 unless they are sent? As it is written: "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!" **ISAIAH 52:7**

* Think of the first person who shared the gospel with you…
* For Lynette and me it was our Sunday School Teachers. Our Parents took us and we heard the gospel message through flannel graph lessons and coloring sheets and songs.
  + How beautiful were those precious servants of God.
  + If we knew the rewards for teaching kids in heaven awaiting Sunday School teachers… There would be a year long waiting list to teach.

**HEARING IS NOT ENOUGH!**

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" **ISAIAH 53:1**17 So then faith *comes* by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

* THIS is why the cultists try to change, twist, or rewrite the Bible… Because the Bible clearly points to Jesus Christ as Savior and God.
* This is why we encourage you to ask the cultists: **WHO IS JESUS**?

18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "THEIR SOUND HAS GONE OUT TO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD." **PSALM 19:4**

* **NLT -** But I ask, have the people of Israel actually heard the message? Yes, they have: "The message has gone throughout the earth, and the words to all the world."

**SAY** **YES TO JESUS!!!**

19 But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I WILL PROVOKE YOU TO JEALOUSY BY THOSE WHO ARE NOT A NATION, I WILL MOVE YOU TO ANGER BY A FOOLISH NATION." **Moses in** **DET 32:21**

20 But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME; I WAS MADE MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME." **ISAIAH 65:1**

21 But to Israel he says: "ALL DAY LONG I HAVE STRETCHED OUT MY HANDS TO A DISOBEDIENT AND CONTRARY PEOPLE." **ISAIAH 65:2**

* Many of us have felt the open arms of God to accept His salvation… AND… We still experience that acceptance of God, through His Son, Jesus Christ.
* Beloved, I invite you to stay in His arms… Abide in Him like a branch clings to its vine… Worship Him… Open your mouth and speak to Him… He is close to you… He is calling you to His arms… Lean in on Him!
* Next chapter – The grafting in of us Gentiles.