

God's Plan of Salvation

Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC

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April 30, 2023

Text: Romans 10:1-21

Purpose: God has provided a clear plan of salvation in His only Son Jesus Christ. When we confess with our mouth, and believe in our heart, that Jesus is the Christ, we are saved. We can live our life with assurance of salvation, acceptance by God, and amnesty from our sins.

During a trial in a small town, a witness was sworn in with her hand on the Bible – with the standard admonitions to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help her God.



The witness was a proper, well-dressed, elderly lady – the grandmother type – well-spoken and poised. The prosecuting attorney approached the woman and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know me?"

She responded, "Why, yes I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a young boy and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, cheat on your wife, manipulate people and talk badly about them behind their backs. You think you're a rising big shot when you haven't the sense to realize you never will amount to anything more than a two-bit, paper-pushing shyster. Yes, I know you quite well."

The lawyer was stunned. He couldn't even think for a few minutes. Then, slowly backed away, fearing the looks on the judge and jurors' faces, not to mention the court reporter who documented every word.

Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney?"

She again replied, "Why, yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, has a bad drinking problem. The man can't build or keep a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. Yes, I know him."

The defense attorney almost fainted and was seen slipping downward in his chair, looking at the floor. Laughter mixed with gasps, thundered throughout the courtroom, the audience was on the verge of chaos.



The judge brought the courtroom to silence, called both counselors to the bench, and in a very quiet voice said, "If either of you morons asks her if she knows me, you're going to jail." ¹

All individuals at one time or another have had sin gnawing on the inside of us. If it was exposed to the world, we too would want to crawl under the table and hide.

The true heart cry of every person is how should I deal with my sin? Psalm 32 describes the situation we face when we keep our sin hidden and buried within our souls. *"When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into drought of summer."*



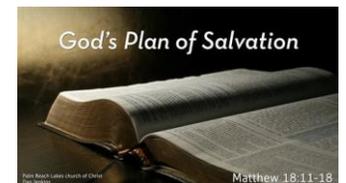
The true longing of our heart is to live in a state of being forgiven. When we have sinned, the relationship that we once enjoyed is now broken. When we do things we know we should not do, we actually sin against God. That sin becomes a barrier to a closer daily walk with Him.

So many different religions attempt to bridge this sin gap that exists in our life. Some meditate day and night trying to find "Nirvana."



Others bring sacrifices of food to lay at the altar of their god to find favor in their god's eyes. Some attempt to show their sincerity by cutting themselves and mutilating their bodies. Some go door to door passing out salvation tracts in attempts to "work" their way into heaven by earning their salvation.

Paul's heart's desire was that the people of Israel experience the forgiveness and fellowship he now experiences with God. Paul in these verses this morning is attempting to explain in as simple a language as possible, **God's Plan of Salvation.**

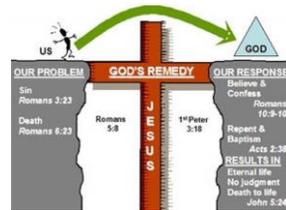


Paul does this in Romans chapter ten by telling Israel that

- I. Jesus the Savior is Revealed,
- II. Jesus the Savior is Received, and also the possibility that
- III. Jesus the Savior is Rejected.

I. God's Plan of Salvation is Revealed in Jesus Christ² (v. 1-4)

The First thing we see as we begin to read chapter ten is that Paul bears witness to Israel's zeal for God. He acknowledges that they have attempted to justify themselves to God through the keeping of the law. The answer to our justification is through Jesus Christ.



A. The Condition of Israel (v. 1)

Verse one tells us that Paul's heart cry for his people was for them to be saved. I once heard a fellow seminary student say he didn't like to hear the word "saved" because it was overused. In ignorance he didn't realize that was the entire reason we bring the good news of Jesus Christ is so that all people can be saved.



We are sinners by nature and sinners by our actions. Israel needs a Savior and we need a Savior as well. Until we get under a burden for the lost people in our community our church will never change its approach to ministry. We will continue to be self-absorbed in our actions, plans, and programs.

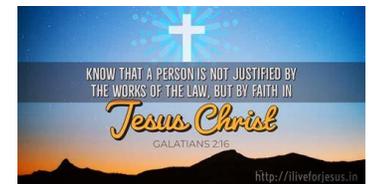
We look around and see individuals that we know have not confessed Jesus Christ as their Savior. It is true you may never really know the heart of a person, but you can tell a lot about them because their actions speak volumes about their heart condition. Those that have failed to accept Christ are really "dead people walking." At any moment they may slip into a Christless eternity – eternally separated from the love of God.

B. The Confusion of Israel (v. 2-3)

Verse two and three emphasize the zeal that Israel had for the things of God. They attempted to justify themselves by their actions, words, and deeds. At one point in Paul's life, he was named Saul. As a chief Pharisee, Saul would actually hunt down followers of Christ and have them put to death. The first martyr recorded in the book of Acts was Stephen. He was killed as Saul stood by and watched. Saul was a zealous defender of the legalistic system Israel had enshrouded itself with.

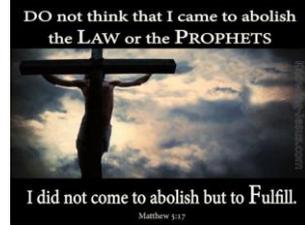


Once Saul had a Damascus Road experience with God, his whole world was changed. He was once blinded by the confines of the law, but was now free to experience the grace and forgiveness found in Jesus Christ. Israel didn't realize that the purpose of the Law was to help them realize that they were **not justified by the works** of the law, but by **faith** in Jesus Christ.



C. The Conclusion of the Apostle (v. 4)

Paul concludes that Jesus Christ was the end of the law. When Christ came and died upon the cross, He died in our place. He did not come to abolish the law; rather He came to fulfill it. In Christ was the total fulfillment of the requirements of the law. He provides the righteousness we need.



This does not give us a license to go into the world and fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Some denominations and individuals complain about Baptist because we say we are eternally saved when we ask Christ to forgive us. Those that complain about the doctrine of eternal security claim that their salvation is also dependent upon their ability to be holy, have missed the entire point of salvation.

We can do nothing worthy of salvation and we can do nothing to sustain it. It is true we need to live a life that is holy and pleasing unto God, not for our salvation's sake, instead out of love and gratitude for what God has done for us.

II. God's Plan of Salvation is found when we Receive Jesus Christ (v. 5-15)

A. When we receive Christ, we are given the Procedure by which Salvation can be obtained (v. 5-10)

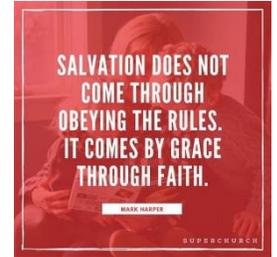
In verse five, Paul quotes a passage found in Leviticus 18:5. Moses was telling the people of Israel that they should keep the statutes and judgments of God. When one keeps all of

the law, they shall live. If Israel had learned anything in their wilderness experience, it was the fact that they were unable to keep the law.

It would take divine intervention if the people of God were ever to be saved. The entire hope of Israel rested upon the coming Messiah that would make all things right.

1. Salvation isn't found in Keeping the Statutes (v.5)

Paul saw, and the people of Israel knew that keeping the statutes was impossible. If a person could keep every area of the law perfectly, but failed in one area, they had failed. It was as if they were guilty of breaking all of the law. I have come to understand that man is not a sinner because he sins, man sins because he is a sinner. Our inward nature is bent towards sin. We may look around and see others doing something evil and think, "Oh, I would never do that." If we truly know our sin nature, we should say, "If it wasn't for the grace of God, that could be me."



2. Salvation Isn't found in Great Signs (v. 6-7)



Verses six and seven identify a human tendency to seek out God in various places. Paul quotes from Deuteronomy 30:12-14. At times we think we need an outside source to keep God's commandments. Some people are looking for a sign from heaven as an answer to their problem. Thousands consult their astrology chart daily and attempt to live out their life on that basis. Some are looking to the

earth and determine how their future should be lived out. People have made it a science to read the “tea leaves” in the bottom of the cup. Others consult tarot cards to foretell their future. But these signs are not what is needed.

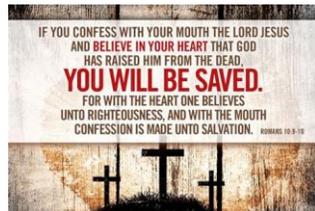
3. Salvation is found simply in Surrender (v. 8-10)

The answer is only found as we simply surrender our lives to God. Moses in Deuteronomy says, “*The Word is near to you, in your mouth and in your heart.*” Paul is saying that he is preaching the same word of faith to them this day. It is as simple as a verbal confession and an inward setting of our heart on the things of God. We do not need to consult the stars or the tea leaves. Only surrender to God and you will be saved.



a. Salvation is found when we confess with our Mouth

The word confess carries the idea of “saying the same thing about.” God wants the lost sinner to come to the place where he can say the same thing about Jesus that God the Father has already said about Him.



The bible attests to Christ’s virgin birth in the Gospel of Luke. The bible tells us that Jesus was temped in all ways like we are, yet He did not sin. The Gospel of John tells us of His Lordship over all creation and substitutionary death on the cross. The Gospels affirm Christ’s victory over death and the grave. The Book of Acts tells of Christ’s ascension into Glory. The Epistles tell of His intercessory

work before the throne of God. Revelation tells of His visible return to claim the bride of Christ.

When we come to Christ, all we need to do is affirm Christ as being all that God said about Him. Confess Christ and you will be saved.

b. Salvation is found when we Surrender our Heart

We also need a heart transformation as well.

Deuteronomy tells us that the word is also near our heart. Revelation 3:20 says, “*Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*”



We need to place our absolute trust that Christ will be our Savior. We need to surrender all other escape plans. Some people want to hedge their bets and say that Mohammad, Buddha, Joseph Smith and Jesus will all bring you to God. But they all cannot be true at the same time. There are fundamental differences in the way each claim to provide salvation. The truth about truth is that it is very narrow. Truth by definition will not allow multiple answers. Jesus is the only answer, the only way, the only truth presented by God in the scriptures.

B. As we receive Jesus, we also receive God's Promises (v. 11-13)

Those scriptures provide us promises we can depend upon.



1. We have a promise of Assurance (v. 11)



Verse eleven gives us assurance of our salvation. *“For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’”* That is a quote from Isaiah 28:16. When we

believe that Jesus is the promised hope for all mankind, we receive salvation and assurance.

2. We have a promise of Acceptance (v. 12)

Not only are we assured of our salvation, we are also accepted by God. *“For there is no distinction between the Jew and the Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.”* You may have heard that God is no respecter of persons. In God's eyes all are the same. He looks at President Biden the same way He looks at you and me. When God sees an individual, He is only looking for one thing – what have you done about accepting His Son. When you accept the Son, you are accepted by God.



3. We have the promise of Amnesty (v. 13)

When we call upon the name of the Lord, we have assurance, acceptance and amnesty. Amnesty is total forgiveness for our sins. Whatever our sin, whatever our problem, God is willing to fully accept you and fully forgive you. No one's sins are too big for God. When God saves a soul, that person is saved forever. We are granted eternal amnesty and will never be brought into judgment for our sins again.



C. As we receive Christ, we also receive a Provision (v. 14-15)

This provision of salvation is sent with special care by God. How did you first hear the good news of Jesus Christ? Was it your mother or father? Was it a neighbor or a friend? Someone once told you about Christ. In hearing about Christ, you have received the provision necessary for salvation.



The good news is distributed by people willing to go and tell. Maybe God is laying someone on your heart today. Maybe you could be the one that reaches your friend, neighbor, or family member for Christ. The scripture describes the feet of those that bring the good news as beautiful. I don't think anyone has ever said I have beautiful feet. But I guess I have heard it from God today, because I am bringing you this message today.

The good news is we have a provision in Christ.

III. Yet there are still some that are Rejecting Jesus as their Savior (v. 16-21)

The sad report that Paul brings is that not all have heard or obeyed what they know to be true. They may hear the message, but they have not heard it well enough to respond.



A. Their Rejection is Confusing (v. 16-20)

To me when a person rejects such a great offer, I am baffled as to why!



Israel heard the word to repent time and time again. Consistently they killed and stoned the prophets that called the nation to repentance. Israel had the prophets, the Law, and even Jesus Christ in their midst. But they continued to reject Him and cling to the Law that brought death to them.

As Paul preached, he saw gentiles coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. When they confessed Jesus as their Savior, and believed in their heart that He was the Messiah as promised by God in His written word, they were wonderfully saved. Paul realized that this promise was for anyone that sought God.

God stretched out His hand and offered Christ to all humanity – Jew and Gentile. We are included if we don't reject this offer of great grace.

B. Their Rejection is Continuing (v. 21)

Israel even today rejects Jesus. Paul quotes Isaiah 65:2 to demonstrate that God has stretched out His hand to this people, and they are still disobedient and contrary.

Is God saying the same thing about you today? Are you still rejecting God's offer of grace and forgiveness? It does not have to be this way. You can surrender your life to the One who created you. Salvation and forgiveness can be yours today, if you only believe!



LET US PRAY

Notes:

¹Mikey's Funnies, Thursday, September 29, 2005, forwarded by Pastor Steve.

²Outline from Sermon Notebook – Romans 10:1-21 – God's Plan of Salvation

