

Walking Through Romans to Christ

Romans chapter 10 “The Just shall live by Faith” (Rom.1:17)

Righteousness by Faith Series

Opening/REVIEW: *Can I be a devoted follower of the TRUE RELIGION and still miss the point? Can I be a churchgoer, participating in services, attending every Sabbath and prayer meeting, and still not understand? A missionary to the ends of the earth, and yet, lack the “peace of God”?*

1. Zeal is not equated to “Righteousness by Faith” (v.1-5)

- a. *(v.1,2) These were very zealous for God, but they did not hold the true knowledge of Christ that would make their faith right and complete. Their faith was “not according to knowledge” (v.2). It is like the word of God in older times, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6). And what is that true saving knowledge they need? It is the true knowledge of Christ and of His Father (See John 17:3). Many today also have a zeal for God, but it is not according to the true knowledge of God. This must certainly change, for God is a Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him “in Spirit and in Truth” (John 4:23,24).*
- b. *(v.3) Sadly, many had missed the necessity of God’s righteousness to stand in place of their own. They thought that their own righteousness had been sufficient to bring them peace and salvation before God. However, this is not so. Our righteousness is like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). We must have the Lord’s righteousness to cover us—we are surely naked without it. “The Lord our righteousness” is what we need (Jeremiah 23:6). Many others in history have felt the weight of their sin and the inadequacy of their own righteous/unrighteous works to save them. When they attempted to earn their salvation by punishing themselves they felt emptiness, not peace. Martin Luther once thought that flogging himself with a whip, for his sins, might bring him peace with God. But it didn’t. Neither did climbing Pilate’s staircase on his knees at the Vatican. Some have said that even Mother Theresa in more modern times, felt a great emptiness, though she’d given her life to service for God. She hadn’t found any peace by her own works. Peace comes from God through Christ (Romans 5:1)!*
- c. *(v.4,5) “Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness.” We don’t have to look any farther for righteousness than Christ, His atoning blood, and His life of perfect righteousness. Jesus Christ is the “end of the law for righteousness.” This statement, doesn’t mean that God’s laws have all ended or disappeared. Far from it! This means to us that we must look no further than Jesus Christ for our salvation and record of righteousness. Our own record is far too imperfect to be able to recommend us to God, as if we’d been so righteous. “The man who does those things shall live by them” (v.5). The one who’s done ALL those things—well, only Christ has, because all of us have fallen short of God’s glory (Romans 3:23). So, Christ shall live by His righteousness, and we may live by Christ’s righteousness too. Relying merely upon our own efforts we still stand naked and ashamed before God (Genesis 3:7,8,21; Revelation 3:15-19). When Adam and Eve attempted to cover themselves by their own efforts they still felt their nakedness and shame before God. However, when God took the skins of the innocent animals, and placed this clothing upon them, they finally could feel clothed and at peace.*

2. Two common thought patterns that lead to missing out on God’s Peace (v.6, 7)

- a. **Working our way up to Heaven** (you belittle Messiah as if He had done no great thing for you. As if you didn't need a savior but could get there on your own). *Imagine a volcano exploding* behind you. A **bus drives up** and you say, "No thanks, I'll walk." Sadly, you'll never make it like that. Jesus only is our deliverance!
 - b. **Searching the depths for Salvation** (as if we would make the Sacrifice to atone for our own sin by punishing ourselves enough—as if Christ didn't need to die). Sorry, "the wages of sin is death", and you can't pay that without death. The word of faith is not something that we have to look "high and low" for! It is near to us. It is not far off at all. It is easily obtainable through faith in what Jesus Christ has done for us (v.8).
- 3. Solution: Salvation is not so hard to obtain (v.8-11)** "it is near you" (Solution is Faith)
- a. Jesus said, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life...**" (John 14:6)
 - b. It's easier to find peace with God than all those strenuous efforts (**Romans 5:1**). "Confess with your mouth and believe with your heart..." Not like Peter did at one time of course, in denying the son of God that is. *Peter denied Christ with "cursing and swearing" (Mark 14:54,71). Let it not be like this lest Christ be ashamed of us at His coming (Mark 8:38). But, let us rather speak the words of faith, belief, and trust in Christ.*
 - c. **Jesus is near to each one of us!** He's "**not far from each of us...**" (**Acts 17:26,27**).
 - d. Christ stands at the door knocking (**Rev. 3:20**)! He's "a very present help..." (Psalm 46:1).
 - e. **God does not just "throw you out" either if you commit sin.** For example, have you ever sinned against your parents? Did they reject you as their Child because you messed up? As our Heavenly Father, **God corrects us too (Hebrews 12:5)**. "If any man sin..." (**1 John 2:1**). God says, "You've messed up, but we can fix it, if you're willing." "Come now, let us reason together..." (**Isaiah 1:18-20**). **Peter sinned by denying Christ. David sinned a great sin before God.** Even Solomon committed sin. **Israel as a nation sinned**, but God pleaded with them for centuries!
- 4. The Gospel of Peace is open to all who call upon God (v.12-15)**
- a. Preachers needed and missionaries are needed **who understand saving faith in Christ!**
 - b. People who've tasted of the gospel are to share it (**Revelation 22:17**).
- 5. The Effect of the Gospel message if we don't harden our hearts is FAITH in God (v.16-21)**
- a. *Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (v.17).* God's word "will not return unto [Him] void..." (**Isaiah 55:11**). *His word will go out and accomplish the work for which it was sent.* It is "...the Scriptures which are able to make you wise unto salvation..." (**2 Timothy 3:15**). If we want more faith, we should more prayerfully and diligently search God's word—the Bible!
 - b. God will find those who'll listen to the gospel. God "was found..." (v.20) by even those who were not seeking Him—the Gentiles. But sadly, Israel on the other hand, had rejected God's message and failed to listen to His voice which had been spoken openly to them (v.21).

Today's Appeal: Will you receive the gospel message by faith, trusting in Christ's righteousness alone to save you, and choosing to live for His honor and glory? _____