

“Salvation to All”
Romans 4:9-17
(Preached at Trinity, January 13, 2008)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we’ve been moving through **Chapter 4** Paul has one central idea to put forth. He is making it absolutely clear that salvation is by faith alone. Our actions do absolutely nothing to merit God’s favor. We are not saved through our good works, or by some external deed, or through the keeping of the law.
2. You are not even saved because you repent or because you believe the Gospel. Although faith and repentance are essential to salvation, these outward acts are not what save us. We are saved because God justifies us through the righteousness of Christ, which we receive through faith and repentance. It is not by anything we do.
3. It is essential that we understand this. This is what the Scriptures teach from beginning to end. Your understanding of this is the difference between life and death, heaven and hell.
4. Multitudes feel they must do something. I need to pray harder. I need to feel worse about my sin. I need to do more. We must understand that there is nothing we can do. Salvation is God’s work. Only He can justify.
5. Although this is the theme of this passage there are also some other wonderful truths that we must not overlook. One of these truths is subtly set forth in **Verses 9-17**. It is one of the most blessed truths in all of Scripture. It is simply this: This glorious salvation is not just for the Jews but for the whole world.
 - A. Paul asks an important question in **Verse 9**
Romans 4:9 – “*Cometh* this blessedness then upon the circumcision *only*, or upon the uncircumcision also?”
 - B. He gives the answer in **Verse 16** where he refers to Abraham as the “Father of us all.”
 - C. To confirm this truth Paul takes us back to the Scriptures in **Verse 17**
“(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,)”
6. This is the meaning of most of the universal passages in the New Testament
 - A. Jesus died for people from every tribe and every nation – not just for the Jews.
1 John 2:2 – “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world.*”
John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
 - B. Sometimes people are so insistent on using these verses to prove a universal atonement that they miss the wonderful truth that God has now shown mercy upon the Gentiles.
 - C. Abraham is the father of us all – namely those who believe
Romans 4:16 – “Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,”

7. This is a blessing that we must always marvel at and praise God for His infinite mercies. This morning I want us to spend a few minutes marveling at this truth – that God’s people now includes people from every nation.
- I. First I must remind you again about the terrible condition of humanity
- A. Adam was created holy
1. Adam was completely free from sin – his conscience knew nothing of sin
 2. He had pure, holy, communion with God
 3. God met with him, spoke with him
 4. Sin, however, ruined all of this. Adam became alienated from God.
Instead of loving God he hated God.
Instead of serving God he became a slave to sin
Instead of trusting God God became his enemy.
 5. God’s wrath was kindled against Adam
- B. All of humanity shares this guilt and alienation
1. All of us are under God’s curse
 2. We are all doomed to walk in darkness unable to know or understand God or the ways of His kingdom.
John 3:3 – “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
 3. God owes us nothing but His wrath and curse – He owes us nothing but an eternity in hell.
- II. God was pleased to show mercy upon the fallen race of humanity
- A. God demonstrated it first with Adam
1. God’s terms were clear.
Genesis 2:17 – “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”
 2. Instead of killing Adam immediately and sending him directly to hell God showed him mercy.
 3. God came to Adam and provided a covering which was meant to point Adam to God’s mercy. The animal skins were a foreshadow of Christ, God’s perfect sacrifice and only covering for man.
God was demonstrating the Gospel to Adam
 4. This was an act of grace. There was nothing in Adam that deserved it.
- B. God then demonstrated His mercy with Noah
1. Now God’s electing grace was made clearer
 2. God saw nothing but wickedness in the earth
Genesis 6:5 – “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”
Genesis 6:7 – “And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.”
 3. God showed one man and his family grace
Genesis 6:8 – “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”

4. What was the difference with Noah? Was it his goodness or his appearance or his wisdom or strength? NO! It was all of grace.
- C. God then demonstrated His mercy by raising up Abraham
1. Abraham was also unworthy. He was from a land of idolatry. His father was an idolater. He was an idolater.
 2. God promised Abraham that He would give him a land and raise up a great nation through him.
- D. The nation of Israel was blessed above all others. They were called the people of God.
1. They were God's particular people – they had a relationship with Him They were the Jews.
 2. All of God's revelations came through them. All of God's covenant promises were made to them.
Romans 3:1-2 – “What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit *is there* of circumcision? ² Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.
Hebrews 1:1 – “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets”
 3. In **Chapter 9** Paul lists the many blessings God gave to Israel
Romans 9:3-5 – “For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: ⁴ Who are Israelites; to whom *pertaineth* the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; ⁵ Whose *are* the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ *came*, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.”
 4. Even the promise of the Messiah was given to Israel
John the Baptist declared:
Luke 1:16 – “And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.”
 5. The people of Israel were God's chosen people, His particular possessions. He provided for them, protected them
Leviticus 26:12 – “And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.”
- III. The Gentiles were excluded from all of these blessings God gave to Israel
- A. They were left to walk in their sin
1. Satan kept them in utter darkness
2 Corinthians 4:3-4 – “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: ⁴ In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”
 2. Paul described the condition of the Gentiles in Ephesians 2
Ephesians 2:11-12 – “Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; ¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:”

- B. The world was divided into two distinct groups – Jews and Gentiles
1. Under the Abrahamic covenant, the Gentiles were excluded. In fact, they were cursed. They were considered defiled and unclean.
Exodus 23:32 – “Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods.”
 2. The Israelites were God's children, the Gentiles were seen as no better than dogs
Matthew 15:22-26 – "And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, *thou* Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* to dogs."
 3. There was a strict wall of division
- C. For 2000 years after Abraham millions of people were left to walk in darkness – guilty and unpardoned
1. Generation after generation died and went to hell
 2. Sadly, most even within national Israel did not understand their privilege. Most continued in unbelief.
Romans 9:6 – “. . .”For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel:”

IV. In Christ we have been grafted in

- A. God has chosen to redeem a multitude in Christ
1. In Christ God has torn down the wall separating Jews and Gentiles
Ephesians 2:12-14 – "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*;"
 2. Jesus told of this reality
Mark 13:10 – “And the gospel must first be published among all nations.”
Acts 1:8 – “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”
 3. In Christ the gates were thrown open to all who would enter

- B. The Messiah not only came for Israel. He came as a Light to the Gentiles
Isaiah 42:6-7 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; ⁷ To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, *and* them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.
1. In Christ the Gospel goes forth to all nations
Mark 16:15 – "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."
Matthew 28:19 – "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"
Acts 1:8 – "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."
Revelation 14:6 – "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,"
- C. The terrible tragedy is that so many snub this great Gospel
1. They want no part of Christ
 2. They are still in blindness to this great mystery and the great mercy that Gentiles are included
 3. They consider heaven an easy place to reach. They consider the throne room of God as common a place as their own living room. They foolishly think they can carry themselves to heaven.
 4. Although the gospel has come to the Gentiles, they are no more open to it than before
 What about you? Have you snubbed this great gospel?
Hebrews 2:3 – "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*;"

Conclusion:

1. Do you understand what a marvelous thing it is that you ever became a Christian? It could have only happened by the power of God.
Romans 1:16 – "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
2. There is only one way the Jews and Gentiles could have been joined together, by the power of God.
3. Most Christians do not fully appreciate the privilege of their citizenship in our Lord's Kingdom.
Ephesians 2:19 – "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;"
 - a. We are the recipients of His promises.

- b. His Divine power has been unleashed upon the world through His Holy Spirit residing in us
Romans 1:16 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
4. Do you glory in these things? Do they bring you great joy? Do they give you great boldness? We are citizens of His great kingdom.