

“The Voice of Truth”
Romans 10:5-9
(Preached at Trinity, February 7, 2010)

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. In **Chapter 10** Paul is continuing to express his great grief and concern over the hardness of the Jews towards the Gospel of Christ. Although they had a great zeal for obeying the Law they failed to understand that their obedience to the Law was entirely insufficient to make them right in the eyes of God. They failed to understand the inner corruption that polluted their entire being.
2. In **Verse 2** Paul opens with the word “for.” He is building his argument. They had a zeal but not according to knowledge. They were ignorant of God's demand for perfection.
Romans 10:3 – “For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”
3. Their ignorance was based upon their misunderstanding of God's demand for perfection under the Law.
James 2:10 – “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.”
4. They failed to appreciate the glorious gift of Christ. True righteousness can only be found in Him. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law for those who trust Him.
Paul is still building his argument – “for”
Romans 10:4 – “For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”
5. Salvation demands perfection. This can only come through Christ. He alone has obeyed the Law perfectly.
God's plan of salvation is very narrow. There are an infinite number of ways to go wrong; so many different religions each claiming to be the voice of truth. But there is only one way to be right. There is only one way of salvation.
6. In **Verses 5-9** Paul sets up an illustration to describe this reality.
Paul quotes from **Leviticus 18** and **Deuteronomy 30** in his illustration. They aren't exact quotes. Paul is merely paraphrasing the passages in order to make his point.
 - A. In **Verse 5** Paul quotes from **Leviticus 18**
 1. Leviticus 18 speaks of the fullness of life Israel would experience in Canaan if they obeyed God's Law. Paul uses it somewhat differently here.
 2. He also uses the same quote in **Galatians 12**
Galatians 3:11-12 – “But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is evident*: for, The just shall live by faith. ¹² And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.”
 3. Both here and in Galatians Paul is declaring not life in Canaan but eternal life. Do this and live. But who has ever done this? There are millions who have sought to find life through the Law only to come up short.

4. Who is the “man” who has done the things required by the Law? There is only one—Jesus Christ.
- B. You can either trust in your own righteousness or trust in the righteousness of another.
7. Paul then sets up a personification of the “righteousness which is of faith.” It begins to speak to us and what it has to say is very important. It has something to say about the issue of salvation, the issue of life and death. It is the voice of truth.
What does it say?
Romans 10:8 – “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;”
8. First of all I’ll direct your attention to the lie. Alongside the voice of truth there is always the lie, the deception. Satan is always seeking to hold the lie before us and billions of unsuspecting victims have fallen into his snare.
Then I’ll direct your attention to the voice of truth.
- I. First, the lie
 - A. Multitudes have been fed the lie; you can earn your way to God
 1. This was the error of the Jews – Paul speaks of it over and over in this epistle. I have set it before you over and over
Romans 9:31-32 – “But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. ³² Wherefore? Because *they sought it* not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law.”
Romans 10:2-3 – “For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”
Romans 3:20 – “Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.”
 2. Most of humanity is following this lie today
 - B. Paul uses Moses to illustrate the error of this way
 1. Remember, Paul isn’t seeking to quote the OT exactly – he is paraphrasing it to make his point
Romans 10:6-7 – “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.)”
 2. In **Deut. 30** Moses is declaring to Israel God’s rich blessings and mercy in Canaan if they turn to Him and obey His commandments.
Deuteronomy 30:9-10 – “And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers: ¹⁰ If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, *and* if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.”

3. In **Verse 11** of **Deut. 30** Moses tells them that the command of God is not unreasonable. It is not hidden from them but plain.
Deuteronomy 30:11 – “For this commandment which I command thee this day, it *is* not hidden from thee, neither *is* it far off.”
NAS **Deuteronomy 30:11** "For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach.”
 4. Then we come to the part Paul is quoting in Romans 10
Deuteronomy 30:12-14 – “It *is* not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? ¹³ Neither *is* it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? ¹⁴ But the word *is* very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.”
 5. What Moses is saying that they didn’t have to do some great feat in order to obtain the commands of God and thus obedience – it was not too difficult for them or beyond their reach. As their covenant God He had graciously given all that they needed to obey. It was an act of grace.
 6. In addition, their obedience to God’s commands would also take an act of grace to be received by faith. They needed circumcised hearts. Israel could never understand this. These truths were a stumbling block to them. They couldn’t grasp the wondrous grace of God.
- C. What does Paul mean here? It seems confusing.
Paul is applying the words of Moses to the New Covenant Church
1. He is saying that “the righteousness which is of faith” speaks:
Romans 10:6-7 – “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.)”
 2. Paul is setting forth two essential truths here
 - a. First, just as Israel was given the commands of God so have we
NAS **Deuteronomy 30:11** "For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach.”
We don’t need an additional word from God. It speaks to the sufficiency of Scripture.
Romans 10:8 – “The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;”
 - b. Second, Israel didn’t need to do something to earn God’s approval by doing hard works.
NAS **Deuteronomy 30:11** "For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach.”
It wasn’t necessary for Israel to ascend into heaven or cross the oceans to obtain God’s favor. In like manner, it isn’t necessary for us to do some hard work to be accepted by God.
 - c. Likewise, we don’t have to do some great feat in order to obtain the righteousness of God.

3. Paul is saying that adding such things is to deny Christ.
In other words Christ must be received by faith
 - a. To insist that one ascend into heaven is to deny the incarnation of Christ. He came down by His will to accomplish His purpose. We didn't do anything to achieve this.
 - b. To insist that one descend into the deep is to deny the resurrection of Christ. Christ was raised according to God's purpose. We didn't do anything to bring it to pass.
 4. If you insist on adding to the work of Christ you destroy the work of Christ and deny the righteousness of God by faith.
- D. This is the great deception
1. Most people see the work of Christ as insufficient
They are busy trying to earn the everlasting life through their works.
Hell will be filled with those having good intentions.
Hell will be filled with people who were zealous in their religion – **V.2**
 2. Satan can be most subtle here
 - a. Is your salvation based upon something you did? Were you saved because of a prayer you prayed, because you were baptized, because you exercised your faith.
 - b. Do you believe you have to do works of obedience in order for God to accept you?
 - c. Do you believe you can lose your salvation through some personal failure – multitudes believe this
 3. This is a great lie. Listen to the voice of truth!
- II. Listen to what the “righteousness which is of faith” says
- A. Christ has done it all
1. He came, He lived, He died, He rose again, He reigns
 2. This is the Gospel. God has sent Christ into the world.
Romans 10:8 – “But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart”
NAS **Deuteronomy 30:11** – “For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach.”
 3. In the New Covenant the Law is close to us, in our minds, written on our hearts
Jeremiah 31:33-34 – “But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

4. The message of Christ is a clear Word. It is understandable, undeniable. It leaves men without excuse – Israel heard and is without excuse. You have heard and are without excuse.
Romans 10:18 – “But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.”
5. Paul says in **Verse 8** that it is a word of faith. It must be received by faith. It is beyond ourselves. It is God’s righteousness. God’s work.

B. What is this clear word that we preach?

Romans 10:9 – “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.”

1. The word is Christ!
1 Corinthians 2:1-2 – “And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. ² For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”
2. Jesus is the heart of the Gospel – He IS the Gospel.
Acts 4:12 – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
3. He must be received? What does this mean?
 - a. It means it’s a faith issue. It is a resting upon Christ alone
 - b. He must be confessed with our mouth.
The word confess means to admit, acknowledge, agree, to publically declare.
 - c. What do we declare? The KJV says, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus”
This doesn’t get to the heart of the meaning. Literally it says you have to confess that Jesus is Lord!
NAS **Romans 10:9** – “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord”
ESV **Romans 10:9** – “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord”
 - d. We’ll look at this more next week
4. Second, we must believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead. What does this mean? Again it is FAITH!
Romans 10:6 – “But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise. . .”
 - a. We believe. We believe that God has accepted the atonement of Christ. We believe and have a full confidence that Jesus did all that was necessary to redeem us from our sins. Nothing else will do.
 - b. The Resurrection proves it! The Resurrection is an inseparable element of the Gospel

- C. You will be saved. Saved from what?
1. There is so much confusion – it robs Christ of His perfect work.
 2. Wrong views
 - He saved us from our earthly difficulties
 - sickness, financial difficulties, low self-esteem, marital problems, loneliness, emptiness (I knew something was missing in my life)
 - He saved us from hell
 - This is certainly part of it – but it misses the heart of our salvation.
 - There are many who want to escape hell but don't want Christ
 3. Chiefly, we are saved from the wrath of God. This has been Paul's teaching from the beginning of this epistle.

Romans 1:16-18 – “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. ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. ¹⁸ ¶ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;”

You must be willing to be saved from your sin. Your sin is rebellion against God and brought you under the wrath of God.

Romans 1:18 – “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;”

 - a. The first thing God does when he saves a person is convict him of his sin. It will occur with different levels of intensity but all come to an awareness of their sin and guilt and condemnation.
 - b. You must desire to be saved not only from the penalty of sin but from its power
 - c. There must be a willingness to give up your sin

Conclusion:

1. Do you hear what the voice of truth has to say? Have you embraced the righteousness which is by faith?
2. There is no other way. To add anything to the finished work of Christ is to destroy it.