

“Whosoever Will”
Romans 10:9-13
(Preached at Trinity, March 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. Trinity is a reformed Baptist Church. We are Calvinistic in our soteriology. We believe the teachings of Paul on the doctrine of election as we’ve seen clearly taught in the Book of Romans.
Romans 8:29-30 – “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”
Romans 9:15-16 – “For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ¹⁶ So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.”
2. But it must be clear, we are Calvinists in a historic sense. There has been a great rise of interest in these doctrines in recent years, especially among young adult men. *Christianity Today* published an article in 2006 titled, *Young, Restless, and Reformed*.
3. But with the rise in Calvinism today has also come a rise in hyper-Calvinism. What do we mean by this term? Some Arminians label all Calvinists as “hyper-Calvinists.” What is a hyper-Calvinist? Although it comes in various forms, in its most basic sense it is a doctrine that stresses God’s sovereignty over human responsibility. It diminishes the need for evangelism. It has two primary and deadly errors:
 - A. First, hyper-Calvinism diminishes God’s offer of salvation to all men. Hyper-Calvinism denies that the Gospel message includes any sincere offer of Divine mercy to sinners in general.
 - B. Second, hyper-Calvinism denies faith as a duty for all men – that all men have a duty to believe.
4. We must be clear, this is not historic Calvinism at all. And we must be clear, this is not Biblical Theology. God commands all men everywhere to repent.
 - A. Paul continually stressed His burden to bring the Gospel to all men.
Romans 1:14-16 – “I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. ¹⁵ So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. 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.”
 - B. God commands faith as a duty for all. Paul describes it as “the obedience of faith.”

5. In **Verse 9** Paul states God's requirement in the Gospel,
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.”
 In **Verse 13** Paul states the subjects of this requirement.
Romans 10:13 – “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
6. In this single verse Paul crushes the error of hyper-Calvinism. He tells us that the Gospel is freely offered to all men. This morning I want to briefly look at this wonderful promise of God to lost humanity.
 - I. First, God commands all to believe upon Christ
 - A. Both faith and repentance are presented in Scripture as commands
Acts 17:30 – “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:”
1 John 3:23 – “And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. ²⁴ And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”
 1. This is the way Paul preached the Gospel. He preached in command mode and commanded obedience to the Gospel.
 The Gospel is always presented as something to be obeyed.
Romans 6:17 – “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.”
Romans 10:16-17 – “But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? ¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 2. The first reason you should trust Christ is because God commands you to.
 - B. God makes great promises for those who trust the Gospel
 1. That while we are great sinners God has sent forth His Son to redeem those who trust in His righteousness and follow Him as Lord.
 - a. This is at the heart of **Verse 9**
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.”
 - b. These are glorious promises
Acts 16:31 – “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. . .”
Romans 10:13 – “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
 - c. When a person refuses to trust Christ he makes God out to be a liar. It is to state that they do not want God in their lives. This is great sin.

2. Lloyd-Jones – “Why should I believe the gospel? The first reason that we all should have for believing the gospel is not that it is going to do this, that or the other for me; I should never preach it in that form. I preach this because it is the record that God gave concerning His Son, and I tell you that if you do not believe it you are making God a liar; you are rejecting the Word of the holy, eternal God, and that is the most terrible sin. We are to preach this gospel and then tell men that, if they do not believe it, they are refusing God, and nothing remains for them but perdition and punishment.”
3. God command you to trust Jesus and if you trust Him He will save you. God has made this promise.

II. The Gospel is a universal offer

- A. It is for all men - “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord”
 1. $\pi\acute{\alpha}\varsigma \delta\acute{\omicron}\varsigma$ - “All who” - the Greek word $\pi\acute{\alpha}\varsigma$ carries the idea of universality – all, every

Romans 9:33 – “As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”

Romans 10:11 – “For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”

Romans 10:13 – “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
 2. In **Chapter 9** Paul described the doctrine of election

Romans 9:18 – “Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will *have mercy*, and whom he will he hardeneth.”

 - a. God has chosen particular people
 - b. Now Paul says that the Gospel is for all.
 - c. Both are true! There is a universal offer of the Gospel
 3. It is not limited by race or nationality, nor by social rank, nor economic prosperity

Romans 10:13 – “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Isaiah 45:22 – “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is none else*.”

 - a. Israel’s Messiah is not for the Jews alone
 - b. Christ isn’t for the wealthy alone – in fact God seeks out the poor and needy

Psalms 40:17 – “But I *am* poor and needy; *yet* the Lord thinketh upon me: thou *art* my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.”
 - c. Christ does not seek out the influential men of this world

1 Corinthians 1:20 – “Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?”
 - d. It is not limited in any way, yet it is limited in every way
A man must see his need of Christ

- B. Coming to Christ demands that we are thirsty
Isaiah 55:1 – “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”
Revelation 22:17 – “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”
1. This isn't a statement of condition. It isn't placing spiritual thirst as a condition for coming to Christ. It is simply a statement that those who come to Christ desire Him. And, of course, we know this desire comes from God
 2. The person who comes to Christ thirsts for Him
 3. This was true of the woman at the well
John 4:10 – “Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”
John 4:14 – “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”
 4. Only Christ can satisfy our greatest need. To believe upon the name of Christ is to desire Him and trust Him in His fullness
Listen again to our Lord:
John 6:27 – “Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.”
John 6:35 – “And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”
- C. Paul didn't write **Verse 13** to tell us of our need to thirst after Christ. He simply wants us to know that the Gospel is for all.
1. Everyone who calls upon the name of Christ will be saved. It doesn't matter who you are, what you've done
 2. How tragic that most people seek fulfillment apart from Christ
God commands you turn to Christ. Trust Him. Embrace Him.
 3. Nothing else will satisfy your soul
Isaiah 55:1-2 – “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²
Wherefore do ye spend money for *that which* is not bread? and your labour for *that which* satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye *that which* is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.”
 4. God commands faith of all men. He commands all men to believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ. God commands you to trust in Christ. And if you trust Him you will find Him most satisfying.
Romans 10:11 – “For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”

III. All men are responsible to believe

- A. We must maintain a harmony between God's sovereignty and human responsibility
1. This is one of the errors of hyper-Calvinism
 - a. Hyper-Calvinism says God is going to save His own no matter what
 - b. It tends to leave sinners waiting for God to do some work in their life
 - c. Hyper-Calvinism tends to take all passion out of preaching. It is just a presentation of the facts.
 2. It is true, God is sovereign over salvation. He has chosen a people unto salvation. He convicts, He regenerates, He saves. Salvation is monergistic. Yet, God commands all men to repent and trust in Christ. The Bible teaches both God's sovereignty and election and human responsibility.
 3. Every sinner has a duty to give great regard to his soul
Matthew 16:24-26 – "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. ²⁶ For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"
- B. With regard to our responsibility we can compare justification with sanctification
1. God has saved us by His grace through Jesus Christ and is continuing to make us holy through sanctification.
 - a. This is God's work. He is making us holy. But we also have great responsibility in it.
 - b. We press on, we discipline ourselves, we strive towards holiness.
 - c. There is perfect harmony between God's sovereign work and our duty.
Philippians 2:12-13 – "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³ For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure."
 2. In our redemption God has sent forth His Son who died in our stead. God sends His Spirit who calls us convicting us of our sin and drawing us to Christ. Jesus' righteousness has become our righteousness.
 - a. This is God's work. As Job said, "Salvation is of the Lord."
 - b. But we are responsible to heed the call of the Gospel. We must turn to Christ and trust Him. We receive God's wondrous gift by faith and are declared righteous – this is justification by faith.
 3. It is all God's work, yet we are responsible.

Conclusion:

1. Here's the wonderful truth about the Gospel. It may sound contradictory but it is nonetheless true. There are two things equally true.
 1. God has elected some to salvation and left the rest to perish in their sin.
 2. Anyone who wishes to be saved can be saved.
2. Do not be deluded into thinking you can do nothing and somehow it will all work out OK in the end. God has commanded you to trust Jesus Christ. He has commanded you to surrender your life to Him. The day will come when you will stand before Him and He will require you to give account for your life.
3. God commands you to look to Christ and trust Him.
Isaiah 45:22 – “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is none else.*”
4. This is the verse through which Charles Spurgeon was saved. He heeded the call and found Christ glorious. Will you obey God and turn to Jesus?
Romans 10:13 – “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”