"The Word Is Nigh" Romans 10:5-9

Introduction:

- I. We Are Truly Living In:
 - The Information Age!
 - Information Is Everywhere!
 - It Is Easily Available And:
 - Is Simply Accessible!
 - Anything You Might Want To Know Is Just A Few Keystrokes Away!
 - And This Is Even More Amazing:
 - When You Think About How Long It Used To Take:
 - To Get A Message:
 - From One Point To Another!
 - Before Samuel Morse:
 - Worked On His Invention Of The Telegraph:
 - Not Quite Two Centuries Ago:
 - It Would Take Months!
 - But If You Fast-Forward To Today:
 - It Only Takes A Moment!
- 2. And The Time Saved:
 - In Communicating A Message:
 - Can Be Critical:
 - When There Are Decisions About Life & Death:
 - To Be Made!
 - This Is True:
 - When It Comes To:
 - National Survival:
 - In Times Of War! Marathon!
 - This Is Also True:
 - When It Comes To:
 - Personal Survival:
 - In Times Of Sickness! Nome / 1925!
 - You Want The Best Information:
 - In The Quickest Time!
 - But This Is Especially True:
 - When It Comes To:
 - Spiritual Survival:
 - And The Salvation Of Man:
 - From The Plight Of Sin!
- 3. You See The Most Important Message:
 - For Any & Every Person In This World:
 - Is "What Must I Do To Be Saved?" (Acts 16:31)
 - Well Praise God He Has Answered That Question:
 - And Has Communicated His Message:
 - Through The Word Of God!
 - And This Word He Brought Near To Us:
 - In Both The Old & New Testament Times!
 - But At First Glance:
 - It Seems As If:
 - There Might Be Two Ways To Be Saved!
 - Two Ways To Be Made Right With God!
 - Through First:
 - The Righteousness Of The Law:
 - Which Is Given To Us:
 - Through The Writings Of Moses!
 - But Then Second Through:
 - The Righteousness Of Faith:

- Which Is Found In:
 - The Writings Of The New Testament Like The Book Of Romans!
- 4. Well In The Verses We Come To Next:
 - In Romans 10:5-9 The Apostle Paul:
 - Takes These Two Messages & Contrasts Them:
 - To Show Us That:
 - There Really Is:
 - Only One Way To Be Made Right With God!
 - Let's Look At Those Verses Together:
 - Romans 10:5-9 "For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them. / But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down [from above]:) / Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) / 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; / 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!"
- 5. In These Verses:
 - Paul Wants Us To Really Understand:
 - The Message That God Communicated To Us:
 - In His Word!
 - And So First:
 - He Wants Us To See The True Nature Of:
- 1. The Righteousness Of The Law:
 - Which He Describes For Us:
 - In 10:5 "For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them!"
 - In This Verse The Apostle Paul:
 - Simply Quotes From The Message Given By God To & Through Moses:
 - In Leviticus 18:5!
 - And The Message:
 - God Wanted His People To Know:
 - Even Back Then Was:
 - The Righteousness Required By The Law Of God:
 - Is To Far & To Hard:
 - For Anyone To Achieve!
 - Because If You Were To Be Right With God:
 - Through The Law Of God:
 - It Would Require:
 - A Personal Righteousness!
 - From Leviticus 18:5 We Are Told That:
 - This Is A Requirement For:
 - Every "Man!"
 - "The Man Which Doeth Those Things!"
 - So Every Person In This World:
 - Has A Personal Responsibility:
 - To Keep The Word & Law Of God:
 - If You Want To Be Right With God!
 - And This Applies To Every:
 - Man, Woman & Child!
 - Whether Jew Or Gentile!
 - But This Would Also Require:
 - A Persistent Righteousness!
 - Again Paul Tells Us That:
 - Every Person Must Be:
 - "Doing Those Things!"
 - What Things?
 - From Leviticus 18:5 The Lord Said:

- "Ye Shall Therefore Keep My Statutes, And My Judgments!" - So - The Emphasis Of Righteousness: - Is "Doing" And "Keeping" Everything: - That God Said: - All The Time! Actively & Persistently! But Also With: - A Perfect Righteousness! - The "Statutes" & The "Judgments" Of God: - Refer To: - All That God **Said** - **And**: - All That God *Meant*: - When He Said It! - Perfect Righteousness Means: - That You Obey God's Law: - Not Just According To Its Letter: - But Also According To Its Spirit! - And - All Of This: - Is Required: - If You Would Seek To Stand Before God. And "Live": - On Your Own & In Your Own Righteousness! - But - There's Even More To This Kind Of Righteousness! - It Also Requires: - A Perpetual Righteousness! - We Are Told Again: - "That The Man Which Doeth Those Things Shall Live By Them!" - In Other Words - The Requirements For: - A Personal, Persistent, And Perfect Righteousness: - Never Ends! - In Order To Be Right With God: - You Would Have To Live This Way: - Forever! - Because Then & Only Then: - Would You Receive: - The Promise Of Righteousness: - Which Is Life! - Not Just A Good Life In This World: - Like Was Promised To The Children Of Israel In The Old Testament: - But An Eternal Life: - In Fellowship With God! - This Was The Message: - That God Gave To Man: - About The Righteousness: - That Comes By The Law! - But - Unfortunately: - When God Gave This Message: - It Seems To Have Got Lost In Translation! - IE: Confused Message - Telephone Game! - This Happened With God's Message About The Law - Because Then: - People Started To Think That: - This Kind Of Righteousness Was Possible! - So - As We Were Told Back In: - 10:3 - People Started "Going About To Establish Their Own Righteousness!" - Which - Based On The Requirements We Just Looked At: - Was & Still Is Impossible! - The Duties: - Required By The Law: - In Order To Be Right With God:

- Are Impossible For Sinners To Keep!

- Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God!"
- James 2:10 "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one [point], he is guilty of all!"
 - But Not Only That:
- The Demands:
 - Required By The Law:
 - For Those Who Aren't Right With God:
 - Is Also Impossible For Sinners To Endure!
 - Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned!"
- So The Point Of God's Message:
 - To & Through Moses Was This:
 - Righteousness By The Law:
 - Is Too Far & Is Too High:
 - For You To Obtain!
 - It Is Impossible!
 - This Was Even The Case:
 - For Adam & Eve Before The Fall!
 - Even Though They Were Righteous Before God:
 - And They Obeyed Him:
 - Personally, Persistently, And Perfectly!
 - Yet Even Their Righteousness:
 - Was Not Perpetual!
 - Even In The Garden Of Eden That Paradise On Earth:
 - The Threat Of Temptation Was Present! And Still Is!
- And Since We Still Don't Seem:
 - To Understand The Point:
 - Of This Message:
 - That "There Is None Righteous, No, Not One!"
 - God Gave Us Another Message!
 - A Message About:
 - A Better Way & A Better Righteousness!
 - A Message About:

2. The Righteousness Of Faith:

- Which Is Then Described For Us In Contrast With 10:5:
 - In 10:6-8 "But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down [from above]:) / Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) / 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!"
 - In These Verses The Apostle Paul:
 - Partially Quotes From:
 - Deuteronomy 30:11-14!
 - These Words Were Also:
 - Written By Moses But Here:
 - They Are Described As Being Spoken By:
 - The True "Righteousness, Which Is Of Faith!"
 - In Other Words:
 - Moses Himself Knew That:
 - A Righteousness By The Law:
 - Was To High For Sinners Like Us!
 - So Another Righteousness:
 - Needed To Be Brought Near:
 - In Order For Anyone To Be Saved!
 - And Through Jesus Christ:
 - And His Righteousness:
 - It Was & Is!
 - Even As We Were Told Back In:

- 10:4 "For Christ [is] the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth!"
- And So What The Apostle Paul Wants Us To Know:
 - Is This When It Seems Too Far & Too Hard:
 - To Stand On Your Own:
 - Before God:
- Do Not Doubt:
 - What Jesus Christ Has Already Done:
 - To Put His Righteousness:
 - Within Your Reach & Grasp!
 - Again In 10:6 Paul Quotes From:
 - Deuteronomy 30:12 To Admonish Us:
 - "Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down [from above]:)!"
 - Perhaps When God Convicts You:
 - Of Your Sinfulness:
 - You May Start To Doubt:
 - If Salvation Is Even Possible:
 - For Someone Like You!
 - You Might Even Wonder:
 - "Who Shall Ascend Into Heaven!"
 - After All God Is In Heaven & God Is Holy!
 - You Know That:
 - You Can't Ascend There!
 - You Are Too Sinful, Not Only In Your Conduct, But Especially In Your Character!
 - Well When You Say Something Like This:
 - And Believe Something Like This:
 - You Are "Bringing Christ Down!"
 - In Effect You Are Doubting & Disregarding The Fact That:
 - Christ Has Already Ascended Into Heaven! And:
 - He's There Right Now!
 - This Means That:
 - He Has Already Fulfilled:
 - Every Single One Of The Righteous Duties Required By The Law For You!
 - And In Heaven Itself:
 - "He Ever Liveth To Make Intercession" For You:
 - If You Just Believe In Him!
 - And Now What Jesus Said:
 - In John 14:19 Can Be True For You!
 - "Because I live, ye shall live also!"
 - There's No More Need For You To Doubt!
 - But Even More:
- Do Not Deny:
 - What Jesus Christ Has Already Done:
 - To Bring His Righteousness:
 - Within Your Reach & Grasp!
 - Paul Continues To Partially Quote From:
 - Deuteronomy 30:13 When He Says:
 - In 10:7 "Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)!"
 - Perhaps When You Are Smitten:
 - With The Guilt And The "Exceeding Sinfulness" Of Your Sin:
 - You Start To Wonder:
 - If There's Any Help & Hope:
 - For Someone Like You!
 - You Might Even Think:
 - "Who Shall Descend Into The Deep?"

- Or The Abyss! In Deuteronomy Moses Described It As Being "Beyond The Sea!"
- The Deep Was Always Considered To Be:
 - A Place Of Darkness & Danger:
 - And Of Death!
- And So When God Pricks Your Heart:
 - You Know That:
 - There's Nothing You Can Do:
 - To Pay The Price For All Of Your Sin!
 - Even An Eternal Death:
 - Is Not Enough Pay Off The Debt You Owe To God:
 - Because Of Your Sin!
- Well Like Before When You Say Something Like This:
 - And Believe Something Like This:
 - You Are "Bringing Christ Up From The Dead!"
 - In Effect You Are Denying & Disregarding:
 - The Very Death Of Christ And:
 - The Fact That He Already Descended Into The Depths For You!
 - And This Means That:
 - He Has Already Fulfilled:
 - The Righteous Demand Required By The Law For You!
 - When You Believe On Christ:
 - You Are Redeemed With:
 - "The Precious Blood Of Christ, As Of A Lamb Without Blemish And Without Spot!" (1 Peter 1:19)
- Do Not Deny:
 - That "Jesus Paid It All, All To Him I Owe! Sin Had Left A Crimson Stain, He Washed It White As Snow!"
 - But Even More Than This:
- Do Not Despair!
 - Because As One William Hendrickson Once Wrote:
 - "The Really Difficult Task Is Not For Us To Undertake! It Has Been Accomplished For Us by Christ!"
 - And So In 10:8 The Apostle Paul:
 - Continues His Quote From Deuteronomy 30:14:
 - "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, [even] in thy mouth, and in thy heart!"
 - In Other Words:
 - The "Righteousness Which Is Of Faith":
 - Which Is The Only Way:
 - A Sinner Can Stand Before God:
 - Is Not Only Available:
 - To You!
 - It Is Now Accessible:
 - To You!

- "The Word Is Nigh!"
 - The Righteousness That God Requires:
 - For You To Have A Right Relationship With Him:
 - Is Not Out Of Reach!
 - It Has Been Brought All The Way From Heaven:
 - Not Only To You:
 - But For You! Because:

Conclusion:

- 1. As Paul Adds In 10:8-9 "That Is This Is The word of faith, which we preach; / That Because 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!"
 - Your Salvation From Your Sin:
 - Does Not Depend On:

- Your Own Righteousness!
- Because If It Did:
 - $\hbox{- It Would Have To Be A Personal, Persistent, Perfect, And Perpetual Righteousness!}\\$
 - Which Noone Can Has Or Can Do!
- 2. No Your Salvation:
 - Depends On The Righteousness Of Christ:
 - Which Has Already Been Brought Near!
 - And Now, All That You Must Do Is:
 - Make A Confession And:
 - Have A Conviction:
 - About The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - **IE:** Its Kind Of Like Making A "Pledge Of Allegiance" That Is Based On Your Belief That "There Is None Other Name Under Heaven Given Among Men, Whereby We Must Be Saved!" (Acts 4:12)
 - You Simply Need To:
 - "Confess With Thy Mouth The Lord Jesus!"
 - This Means That You Come To Christ:
 - And Confess:
 - Your Condition As A Sinner:
 - In Need Of A Savior!
 - He Is Jesus!
 - This Also Means That When Come To Christ:
 - You Confess:
 - Your Comprehension Of Him:
 - As Lord! The Lord & Your Lord!
 - And You Make This Confession Because:
 - You "Believe In Thine Heart That God Hath Raised Him From The Dead!"
 - This Means That You Come To Christ:
 - With The Conviction That:
 - "Christ Is All That He Claimed

To Be, And That He Has Accomplished All That He Came To Perform!" (Charles Hodge)

- 3. And What Happens:
 - When You Do This?
 - 10:9 "Thou Shalt Be Saved!"
 - Saved From:
 - All The Duties:
 - That The Law Of God Requires:
 - From You! And:
 - Saved From:
 - The Demand:
 - That The Law Of God Requires:
 - Of You!
 - And This Is:
 - "The Word Of Faith, Which We Preach!"
 - And As We Saw In:
 - 5:1 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ!"
- 4. Have You Done This?
 - Have You Confessed With Your Own Mouth:
 - The Lord Jesus?
 - Have You Believed In Your Own Heart:
 - That God Hath Raised Him From The Dead?
 - Then You Have Been & Will Be Saved!
 - And As Jesus Said:
 - In John 6:37 "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out!"
 - So That Even Now:
 - When You Are Confronted Again With:
 - The Guilt Of Your Own Sin:

- Past, Present Or Future!
- You Don't Need To:
 - Despair:
 - About Your Standing Before God:
 - On Judgment Day!
- Because Your Standing:
 - No Longer Depends On:
 - Your Own Righteousness:
 - And The "Righteousness Of The Law!"
 - But On The Righteousness Of Christ:
 - Which Is "The Righteousness Which Is Of Faith!"

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