

Subject: *Salvation Offered and Rejected*

Scripture: *Romans 10:12-21*

In this section of Romans we are dealing with God's offer of salvation and man's responsibility to receive it, believe it, and share it. There is only one Savior and one Gospel for the whole world. Here is an overview of Romans 10.

- 1) *Salvation is needed by all people (vs. 1-4)*
- 2) *Salvation is suitable for all people (vs. 5-11)*
- 3) *Salvation is available for all people (vs. 12-13)*
- 4) *Salvation must be preached to all people (vs. 14-15)*
- 5) *Salvation is not accepted by all people (vs. 16-21)*

In this chapter Paul points to OT Scripture time after time to confirm the message of the Gospel, that it was God's plan all along. God was not surprised that Gentiles received the Gospel and Jews rejected it. That's exactly what God predicted would happen, and it did. I want to show you three important facts in our text.

1. The blessings of salvation are available to all (vs. 12-13)

Salvation is available to all people on terms that everyone can meet. Whosoever includes everybody and it excludes nobody. These verses remind us of John 3:16 (whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life).

A. There is no distinction in God's eyes

All are created by Him. All are sinners and are separated from Him. All are loved by Him. All are saved by Him the same way (by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone).

B. God is rich to all that call upon Him

Ephesians 1:7 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.*

2 Corinthians 8:9 *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.* That speaks of spiritual riches, not worldly riches.

To call upon the name of the Lord means to place your full trust in Christ, all He is and all He did. This is a call of desperation and humility. This is a call of full commitment. No one who calls upon Christ to save them with a humble and repentant heart will ever be turned away. This is the parallel scripture found in the OT.

Psalms 145:18-19 ¹⁸ *The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.* ¹⁹ *He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.* We must call upon Him in truth. God does business with people who mean business.

2. The message of salvation must be preached to all (vs. 14-15, 17)

In a series of rhetorical questions Paul shows the logical connection between preaching the gospel and believing the gospel.

- A. The importance of *calling*
- B. The importance of *believing*
- C. The importance of *hearing*
- D. The importance of *preaching*
- E. The importance of *sending*

Preachers must be authorized and commissioned to preach the gospel message.

All of this must take place for people to call on the Lord and be saved. No one is saved apart from hearing and believing the truth about Christ. This is God's method of saving the lost. We don't need to be more creative in our approach or relevant to our culture. We just need to be faithful to God's message and God's method, and that is to preach the Gospel as it is to people as they are.

1 Corinthians 1:18 *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 ²³ *But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;* ²⁴ *But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*

In verse 15 Paul quotes Isaiah 52:7, which originally referred to the good news that the Jews were restored to their homeland after many years in captivity. How much greater is the news of that Gospel! Sinners who are bound in sin and under the sure judgment of God can be set free because of what Christ has done.

3. The message of salvation is not received by all (vs. 16, 18-21)

As he has done earlier in this chapter, Paul speaks here of two results wherever the gospel was preached. Some believe and others reject the gospel. To be even more specific, most of those who believed were Gentiles and most of the Jews rejected the message. Paul referred to OT Scriptures that revealed this outcome.

In verse 16, Paul makes the statement that not all obeyed the gospel and then quotes Isaiah 53:1, which introduces that great chapter about Christ as the Sin-Bearer who took our sins on Himself at the cross. The gospel is not only something to be believed and received; it is something to be obeyed.

Acts 6:7 *And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

Hebrews 5:9 *And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.*

2 Thessalonians 1:8 *In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

In verse 18, Paul refers to Psalm 19:4, a scripture about God's general revelation of Himself in creation. The truth that God is creator of all things is known by all people everywhere in the world. God has revealed the truth about Himself to all people.

Romans 1:20 *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*

And yet people still don't believe in the one true God who created everything. In the same way, the Jews heard the truth of the gospel. They knew it but they rejected it and were without excuse.

In verse 19, Paul quotes Deuteronomy 32:21, a scripture in which God says that His people turned to false gods and moved Him to jealousy, and so He will move them to jealousy by people who are not His own, that is Gentiles.

In verses 20-21, Paul quotes again from Isaiah 65:1-2, a scripture that speaks of the Gentiles finding God even though they did not seek Him. God revealed Himself to the Gentiles who did not look for Him. But on the other hand, God had stretched out His hands to Israel all day long, but they were disobedient and stubborn and rejected Him. What a sad picture. And that is the same picture today. Christ stretches out His nail-pierced hands to welcome and forgive all who will come to Him, but so many will not have Him.

If you despise God's mercy you will deserve His wrath. Oh, consider what Christ has done for you on the cross and what He will do for you in salvation. How can you refuse Him?