

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church

Wednesday Sermon

Date: May 19, 2021

Text: Romans 10:1-13

Scripture Reading: Romans 10:1-13

Subject: Calling on Christ on whom they believed

In verses 22 through 33 of the ninth chapter, we considered these things:

1. That a potter has power over the lump of clay to make for himself vessels of honor or dishonor; how much more does God has power to create for himself vessels fitted to wrath or vessels afore prepared unto glory of the same lump – for he created the lump also.
2. God has shown much longsuffering to the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy afore prepared unto glory – even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles.
3. That God purposed to call them a people which were not his people. That he saved a remnant from Israel in which they were prevented from being as Sodom and Gomorrah
4. That the Jews who followed the law of righteousness did not attain to righteousness because they sought it not by faith – but stumbled at the stumblingstone which God lay in zion; but the Gentiles which followed not after righteousness have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.
5. That whosoever believeth on him (that rock of offence and stumblingstone) which God hath laid in Sion, should never be ashamed, bewildered, or disappointed. That stumblingstone is Christ.

Now, we come to chapter 10, verses 1 through 21.

Romans 10:1 (KJV) *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.*

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Paul had a great desire that his kindred should be saved – and that was his prayer to God. We can see that his great heaviness and continual sorrow for Israel resulted in his heart's desire and prayer to God. Remember what Paul wrote in the beginning of the 9th chapter?

Romans 9:1-5 (KJV) *I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, 2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. 3 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.*

Beloved, concerning our loved ones who are unsaved, we do not know who among them are God's elect. We do know if they repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ they will be saved. There is always hope so long as they are still living. Let us pray for them earnestly.

Romans 10:2 (KJV) *For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.*

To bear record, means to be a witness; to give evidence. That is what Paul is doing about Israel. What is the evidence? That they have a zeal of God -- Zeal for God here means passionate

dedication in the things pertaining to God, or in the things of the Jewish religion. In this they were doubtless, many of them, sincere; but sincerity does not of itself constitute true godliness. Yes, they have a zeal of God, but

Not according to knowledge. – Their zeal moved them on mistaken principles, and moved in a wrong way. How so? In persecuting the church of God, in doing things contrary to the name of Christ, in putting to death his ministers and members, thinking that in persecuting the church they did God good service. This all came about from their ignorance of their Father, and of the Son: though they had a zeal of God, they knew neither God nor Christ truly. They did not know Jesus to be the true Messiah; the Christ. They, as Saul of Tarsus did, thought the Gospel was contrary to the law, and an enemy to it. Saul referred to those who believed in Jesus Christ as “that way” and like the Israelites who Paul was now burdened for, Saul persecuted the church in his ignorance.

Romans 10:3 (KJV) *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.*

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, -- They had not been given eyes to see and ears to hear. They were totally ignorant that Jesus of Nazareth was in truth, the son of the Living God, and was the God-Man, the Christ – that prophet who arose like unto Moses according to the word of prophecy. Jesus is the Lord our righteousness and the righteousness of all those who believe.

And going about to establish their own righteousness, -- Rejecting “that way” and rejecting Jesus himself, they went about trying to keep the demands of the Old Testament Law Covenant

thinking that by the works of the law, God would count them righteous. They did not yet know that "by the works of the law no man can be justified or counted righteous." They did not know that at this time the righteousness of God without the law was manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe; (Rom. 3:21-22).

Have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. – the righteousness of God is the righteousness of Christ, so called, because it is approved and accepted of by God, imputed by him to his people, and given them by him as a free gift. Nothing else or no one else can justify. Christ alone justifies in his sight. The Jews did not submit to it because they had no true humility and sense of themselves as sinners - nor did they care to acknowledge themselves as such. They could not yet hear this because the Holy Ghost had not quickened them.

1 Timothy 1:15 (KJV) *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

Romans 10:4 (KJV) ***For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.***

The word translated "end" means that which *completes* a thing, or renders it perfect. Therefore, Jesus Christ is the one that makes every prophecy, every type; every shadow; every offering from the old testament perfect. All these done by Israel were pointing to Jesus Christ as God's righteousness. Therefore, his sinless life and substitutionary death for His people fulfilled all the pictures, offerings, types, and shadows of the law. He is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believes. But to those who

remain in unbelief of him are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only begotten son of God.

Romans 10:5 (KJV) *For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.*

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How was it that Moses described the righteousness which is of the law? How was the law reputed to bring righteousness to a fallen sinner? This is the description:

Leviticus 18:5 (KJV) *Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.*

The righteousness of the law could only be realized or attained in "doing" and keeping those statutes, not merely externally, but internally, with all the heart, and soul, and strength. The law requires love to God, fear of him, and faith in him, and an inward disposition of the mind towards him, and a conformity of heart and nature to his law, as well as outward obedience.

Matthew 22:36-38 (KJV) *Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment.*

All this is to be done perfectly and completely in every particular the law requires, otherwise no life is to be expected, nor any righteousness to be had by keeping it. This is the testimony of the Apostle James.

James 2:10 (KJV) *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

The law of God is holy, just and good, but the problem is that fallen human beings are carnal and weak in the flesh – and no person has the power to keep the law of God perfectly.

Romans 10:6-7 (KJV) *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:) 7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)*

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Here is a contrast of the righteousness of the law and the righteousness which is faith. ***But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise,*** -- the selfsame writer, the Apostle Paul, who described the righteousness of the law in the manner we have observed - that the righteousness of the law gives no hope to a fallen creature ever to expect life and salvation by it, gives us such an description of the righteousness of faith – a righteousness which will never bring doubting and despair.

Say not in thine heart, -- Don't say it in your heart and much more, never say it with your lips.

Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) – When Moses had spoken all the promises of God to Israel for keeping his commandments and all the curses on them if they did not obey his commandments, he said this to them:

Deuteronomy 30:11-14 (KJV) *For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. 12 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.

This illustration from Deuteronomy shows us the folly of thinking in our hearts that Christ should be brought down from heaven or be brought up again from the dead. These are – or would be very foolish thoughts as the next verse tells us in the same way that Moses told Israel.

Romans 10:8 (KJV) *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;*

But what saith it? -- Saith what? The righteousness which is of faith!

The word is nigh thee – the word is not up in heaven nor is it in the region of the dead in the deep – no! The word is nigh thee. Nigh means close by. Near.

Even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: -- The word is as close to us as it can be. In our mouth and in our heart. The heart where we think, contemplate, feel, and will., and from the abundance of our heart, the tongue or mouth speaks. The word that is in our mouth and heart, what is it?

That is, the word of faith, which we preach; -- The word of faith sets forth before us, Jesus Christ as the object of faith, and encourages souls to believe in him for life and salvation; and is also the means of begetting and implanting faith in the heart. What do we say when we preach this word of faith? We preach the word of God which makes certain promises to those who believe it. This is God's word, not men's words!

John 3:14-18 (KJV) *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15*

*That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. **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. **17** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. **18** He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

1 Corinthians 15:1-6 (KJV) *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. **3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; **4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: **5** And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: **6** After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.*

1 John 5:1 (KJV) *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.*

1 John 5:10-12 (KJV) *He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. **11** And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **12** He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

Romans 10:9 (KJV) *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.*

*And that word of faith which we preach continues thus: **That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus,** -- See that? That if thou... Confession of your belief in Jesus Christ as your righteousness before God is required by the word of faith which we preach. Think about it – you will never confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus unless you have believed on him in your heart.*

And shall believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. -- When the word of God is preached – if God has already quickened you, you will think about what you have heard very seriously and will believe it. Believe what? That Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; that he was buried; and rose again in a glorified body after three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The promise is if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:10 (KJV) *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; -- The two statements in this verse explains the nature and the manner both of faith and confession of it. Saving faith does not lie in the bare approval and consent of the mind to the Gospel. This is true of any truth contained in it which tells of the person and office of Christ. Notice that it is believing with the heart. Or heart is where we consider; where we feel; where we will; and it is a believing with all the heart. It is a believing in Christ in which all the powers of

the soul, the understanding, will, and affections, are concerned. it is a seeing Jesus Christ, beholding his glory, his fulness, suitableness, as my savior. It is a determining to come to him – a willingness, yea, a real want-to to put aside all persons and things for Christ. This believing in him admires, receives, lays hold on, and rejoices in looking on Christ as my hope and righteousness. This is the faith that lays hold on the righteousness of Christ.

And with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. --This confession must be made both by words and facts, must be open, visible, and before men. It must be hearty, and sincere, the words of the mouth agreeing with the experience of the heart. And this is said to be *unto salvation*, because it is the performance of the condition of that promise.

Matthew 10:32 (KJV) *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.*

Romans 10:11 (KJV) *For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

The Old Testament tells us of God laying in Zion a precious corner stone – He is referring to Jesus Christ. **Isaiah 28:16 (KJV)** *Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.*

Romans 10:12 (KJV) *For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.*

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: -- Regarding believing in Jesus Christ, there is no distinction of nations, no superiority because our family tree, or fleshly privileges,

no preeminence because of laws and ordinances of the Old Testament.

for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

– Our Lord is rich to all because he is the God of all.

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Romans 3:29 (KJV) *Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:*

He is rich unto all that call upon him. – He was rich to the dying thief who hang beside Jesus and called on the Lord saying: “Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.” Jesus said to him, “This day, shalt thou be with me in paradise.” He was rich to the poor publican who was berated by the self-righteous Pharisee in the temple at the time of prayer. He was rich to him because he would not so much as lift up his eyes toward heaven, but called on the Lord saying: “God, have mercy to me a sinner!” God response was that “this man went down to his house justified!” God was rich to him who called on him. Freely his grace is bestowed on us who call upon him with the gift of everlasting life and the promise that we shall never come into condemnation, but are passed from death unto life.

Romans 10:13 (KJV) *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord with brokenness as the dying thief who said “And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.” He knew he was a sinner and a criminal who deserved the wages of sin; he knew Jesus was righteous and was a great king. When any person truly believes in Jesus as His savior who will save him from his sins, going to him believing, and calling on his name shall be saved.

Romans 10:14 (KJV) *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*

Romans 10:15 (KJV) *And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

Romans 10:16 (KJV) *But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?*

Romans 10:17 (KJV) *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

So then faith cometh by hearing, -- That is, by preaching; for the word hearing is used in the same sense as in the 14th verse. This speaks of the preaching of the Gospel, or the preaching of the word, which is the means God makes use of, to convey faith into the hearts of his people; for preachers are ministers, or instruments, by whom others believe.

And hearing by the word of God. -- these words are the conclusion, and sum of the whole; that as praying or supplication is because of faith, so faith to hearing, hearing to preaching, preaching to a mission. It was the original will of God to send forth his apostles and ministers to preach the Gospel first to the Jews, then to to the Gentiles; that those hearing might believe, and believing call upon the Lord, and so be saved by him. Those who believe are those to whom God has given "ears to hear."

Romans 10:18 (KJV) *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.*

Romans 10:19 (KJV) *But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.*

Romans 10:20 (KJV) *But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.*

Romans 10:21 (KJV) *But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.*