

The Witness of Salvation # 37
Romans 10: 11-21

As we consider our text, the burden of Paul for the salvation of Israel remains in sharp focus. He too had been bound by the strict tenants of the Pharisees, seeking to gain acceptance through adherence to the law and the keeping of Jewish tradition. He knew the committed devotion of many Jews and earnestly sought to reveal truth to them. Paul knew salvation by faith in Christ alone was the only means of salvation and deliverance from the bondage they endured.

Although written with a Jewish audience in mind, this is a powerful exposition on the doctrine of salvation. The principles Paul shared with them are true and relevant in regard to all people. In case there was any doubt, Paul confirms, yet again, there is only one way of salvation for all people: faith in the finished work of Christ.

As we prepare to conclude this tenth chapter, I want to examine the [insights](#) Paul shares as we consider: [The Witness of Salvation](#).

I. The Provision of Salvation (11-13) – While the first portion of Romans was written primarily to the Gentiles, Paul held a deep and convicting burden for the salvation of Israel. He seeks to reveal unto them that God made provision for their salvation through Christ as well. As we consider this provision, we discover:

A. It is Available (11) – [For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed](#). This statement is tied directly to the previous verse concerning the public profession of Christ following salvation, but he also confirms the availability of salvation for all people. It is provided and available to whosoever will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ by faith, Jew and Gentile alike.

- Each of us ought to rejoice for the provision of salvation. God has made it available to all people, regardless of any personal, social, racial, or economic factors. The only requirement for salvation is faith in the finished work of Christ. Had there been any other requirement, none would be saved, because none can meet the righteous demands of God.

B. It is Unchangeable (12) – [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](#). Paul knew the ways and traditions of the Jews. He knew they were adamant in their beliefs and committed to their long held traditions. Most of them refused to embrace salvation by faith alone, and Gentiles being included in God's redemptive plan. Paul reminds them that the Lord had established the bounds and requirements for salvation, not man. He saw no difference in Jew or Gentile in regard to salvation by faith, offering His rich grace to all who respond by faith! These principles of salvation were ordained of the Lord and they would never change.

C. It is Inexhaustible (13) – [For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.](#) Paul declares one of the greatest statements in Scripture. The grace of God that brings salvation has been extended to all people. It is a “whosoever” salvation. All who call upon the name of the Lord, believing in Christ by faith, shall be saved. He will reject none!

- As I looked at this, I was thankful the Lord’s grace didn’t have an expiration date. I realize we live in the age of grace, and God’s dealings with mankind will be different following the rapture of the church, but salvation is available today just as it was in Paul’s day. I believe the Lord knows when the number will be complete, but I rejoice that salvation and eternal life wasn’t reserved for only those within the early days of the church. This same salvation is being offered today, and He will continue to offer it as long as we await the Lord’s return!

II. The Proclamation in Salvation (14-18) – Here Paul addresses the proclamation of the Gospel that leads to salvation. Consider:

A. The Message of the Gospel (14) – [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?](#) He emphasizes the message of the Gospel and the great significance it holds. These arguments are very simple, yet they are valid and worthy of consideration. How can one possibly call on Jesus for salvation when they have not believed in Him as the Christ? How will they ever believe of His provision if they never hear the truth of the Gospel? How shall anyone ever have the opportunity to hear the Gospel if no one is sharing it? He emphasizes the great importance of sharing the Gospel with those who are yet to be saved. They must hear to believe, and someone must be willing to share if they are to hear!

B. The Messenger of the Gospel (15) – [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!](#) Scripture teaches that every believer has a responsibility to share the Gospel with the world. A smaller number would be saved if only preachers and pastors shared the message. However, I do believe Paul is speaking of those God has called to preach the Gospel in this verse. They must be sent of the Lord if they are to faithfully expound the Gospel in such a way that bears fruit. God calls and equips men to preach the Gospel to a lost and dying world.

- Also, I do believe God blesses and honors those who faithfully preach the Gospel, but their beauty is not within themselves or their endeavors necessarily. The beauty is wrapped up in the message they proclaim: the glad tidings of the good news! All that any of us have to boast in or celebrate is the goodness and grace of God toward humanity!

C. The Ministry of the Gospel (16-17) – Now Paul speaks of the ministry of those who share the Gospel. There are two aspects of this ministry. We find it involves:

➤ **Rejection (16)** – *But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?* Paul had encountered many who refused to believe the Gospel and respond by faith unto salvation. He knew he was in good company. Isaiah too had faced such opposition and rejection of truth. Everyone Paul shared the Gospel with had not responded favorably.

If you have shared your faith much at all, you too have encountered rejection. Often others will not share our faith and enthusiasm for the Lord, rejecting the Gospel. If you are new at sharing the Gospel with others, you might as well prepare for rejection. It will come. When it does, do not let that hinder you. We must continue to proclaim the Gospel message. Just bear in mind, they are not rejecting you; they are rejecting the Lord.

➤ **Reception (17)** – *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* Undeterred by the rejection of some, Paul continued to faithfully proclaim the Gospel. Some heard the word and believed by faith. He knew all wouldn't respond favorably, but some would. This compelled him to continue to share with all he had the opportunity.

This stands as a challenge for each of us. We have no way of knowing who will respond to the Gospel, receiving Christ by faith, and who will reject it. One thing is certain: we cannot expect them to respond to a message they have never heard. If we have any hope of seeing folks come to Christ in salvation, we must be faithful to share the Gospel.

D. The Mandate of the Gospel (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.* Although all had not believed, the Gospel was being faithfully proclaimed throughout the world. It was within the sound of their ears. Paul knew he couldn't save them; all he could do was share the Truth. Once they had heard, the responsibility rested upon them. The mandate to hear and respond is one that cannot be ignored. This gave Paul great liberty and rest. I am certain his heart was grieved when some rejected the Gospel, but he could rest knowing he had presented it. He was no longer accountable for that individual. They had heard and made their choice.

▪ Each of us must do our part to share the Gospel with the world. We can't decide for them, but we can present the opportunity to hear the Truth. Once they have heard, the decision rests upon them. Paul was confident, through the efforts of the apostles and the church, that the Gospel was being shared with the world. We have the same responsibility. Let's ensure all we meet have an opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel. We will not give account for their reception or rejection, but we will give account of our faithfulness to share!

III. The Persuasion for Salvation (19-21) – Finally Paul speaks of the persuasive power of the Gospel. Consider:

A. The Confrontation (19) – *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.* While many of the Jews continued to reject the Gospel, they could not claim ignorance. God had given His Word, which revealed many prophecies of the coming of Christ and His plans for their redemption. He warned of rejection through Moses, revealing the Gentile nations would receive Him. Many chose to reject the Truth, but they could never claim they had not been confronted with it. They had heard the Gospel, and yet most chose to reject it because it went against their traditions and preferences.

- Many around us today will stand before God, condemned of sin, because they rejected the Gospel. They heard truth and chose to reject it. Many do because the Gospel is confrontational. It speaks to our utter depravity. It challenges our sin, and demands we seek the righteousness of Christ instead of our own. It proves our merit and worth are never enough. Many know the truth, but refuse it because it doesn't fit their agenda or lifestyle!

B. The Conviction (20) – *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.* Isaiah prophesied of the salvation of Gentiles. God would be found of those who had not sought Him and He would manifest Himself to those who previously had not worshiped Him. This began to be fulfilled in Paul's day. The Gentiles heard the Gospel, were convicted by it, and responded by faith unto salvation.

- This truth has not changed. Once one is confronted by the Gospel, conviction follows. How we respond to conviction, literally the pleading of the Holy Spirit, will determine our acceptance or rejection of Christ in salvation. I am glad I was confronted with the Gospel and the Spirit convicted my heart. It was then I saw my need for Christ and believed on Him by faith!

C. The Continuation (21) – *But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.* This reveals the tender mercy and grace of God toward Israel, nationally and individually. For thousands of years they had been disobedient and rebellious toward God. He called Paul to take the Gospel to the Gentiles, but He was still pleading with Israel in regard to salvation. All who heard these words had the opportunity to respond in salvation. Generations had rejected God, and many continued to do so, but His grace was still extended.

- This reveals great comfort and hope in our day as well. I know people and nations can cross the line and face the judgment of God, but we remain in the day of grace. Salvation is still being offered today. Hope remains for the unsaved. Many continue to reject the Lord, but His saving grace continues to be offered to all who will respond by faith. That ought to challenge us to proclaim the good news to those who have yet to believe!

Conclusion: This is a powerful portion of Scripture. Although written with Israel in mind, these principles remain the same regardless of the person. Salvation is offered to all who will respond by faith to the Lord. In order to do so, they must hear and grasp the truths of the Gospel. How will they hear if no one is sharing? How will they ever believe if they are never given the opportunity to do so? Church, we have a responsibility to share the Gospel with the world. It is available to all people, and we are surrounded by those in that category!

Have you responded to the Gospel, believing by faith in the finished work of Christ to atone for your sin? Have you received Him as your Savior, admitting your need and trusting Him to save you? If not, I urge you to believe the Gospel and be saved today. Christian, are you sharing the Gospel with others? If not, I urge you to do so every time you are presented with an opportunity.