

What Must I Do to be Saved?

Romans 10: 1-13

We find in the beginning verse of this passage Paul's desire for the people of God: [that they might be saved](#). He established the nature and the need of the people right away. If they needed salvation, they were sinners. If they were sinners, they needed to be saved. This was Paul's life ambition, to share the gospel of Christ and reach those perishing in sin. [1 Cor.9:16 – For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!](#) His message was always clear and convicting. [1 Cor.2:2 – For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.](#) As I stand before you today, I share the same desire for those I have been called to minister to.

We live in a day where it seems there is wide acceptance of religious affiliation and various views concerning acceptance to God. Most of the people you meet will tell you that they plan to go to heaven when they die. The defining factor is what or who they are trusting to get there. Statistics from a study released a few years ago by Barna Research Group revealed some informing, yet troubling facts: *42% surveyed claimed to be "born again," and another 39% claimed to be Christians, but rejected the notion Christianity involves a relationship through grace.* So, based on those numbers, 81% of Americans think they are right with God. *Of Americans surveyed, 53% of adults believed a good "moral life" would merit heaven, and 69% believed in God, that He is the all powerful, all knowing Creator.*

It is easy to see there are conflicting views among men in regard to salvation and acceptance into heaven. While mankind may not agree, the Bible is clear about what one must do to be born again. I want to look at the [certainties](#) in these verses and let the Bible speak for itself concerning salvation as we consider the question: [What Must I Do to be Saved?](#)

I. The Confusion Regarding Salvation (2-7) – The church at Rome was no different than other churches in Paul's day or ours either for that matter. There were those among them who had a distorted view of salvation. Before Paul presents the gospel message, he must deal with the confusion and false doctrine that was widely held. He begins by telling them what salvation is not. This world will offer many views and promise their approach is good enough, but I'm not interested in man's philosophy. What does the Bible say? We see:

A. Salvation is not in Mere Wisdom (2) – [For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.](#) There were many Jews in the church at Rome. They knew the Word of God. They knew the law and placed great emphasis on their association to Abraham. Paul wanted them to understand that their knowledge was good, but it wasn't enough. The people were

zealous about the Scripture, but they didn't know the God of the Scripture. The knowledge they needed was one that was correct, full, and complete. They needed an experiential knowledge of Jesus Christ.

- There must be more than head knowledge if we are to be saved. Simply knowing the Bible and quoting Scripture will not save. I know lost folks who know the Bible better than many Christians, but that is no sign they are saved. There are a lot of folks who will miss heaven by 18 inches. They have head knowledge of God, but there is no heart knowledge. You will never reach the place that you know enough about the Lord to figure out salvation. Jesus declared that we are to come with child-like faith. Salvation is not in mere wisdom!

B. Salvation is not in Many Ways (3-4) – The people were avoiding what the Lord commanded and were [going about to establish their own righteousness](#). They wanted to work it out for themselves. They were on a quest to find truth in a manner that pleased them.

- We clearly live in such a day. Many today teach and believe there are many ways to heaven. They claim we are all going to get there, just on different paths. That is a lie straight from the devil. The ways of this world will lead you to hell. I know many claim there are no absolutes, that what is truth and right for me, may or may not be for you. Jesus said **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

- You may think that you will get saved when you find your way or reach the place that you can do better. Listen, **man isn't a sinner because he sins, man sins because he is a sinner.** Jesus is the only way. There are not many ways to salvation. You must come through the shed blood of Calvary and the sacrifice of Jesus!

C. Salvation is not in Man's Works (5) – Paul spoke of the demands of the law. Many in that day believed as long as they upheld the law of God they were acceptable. They were counting on living good enough to merit salvation. They were depending upon their physical heritage as a Jew.

- Salvation will never be obtained by trying to keep the law. We could never live good enough to keep the whole law! [Jam.2:10 – For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.](#) You maybe can live a decent life, but it isn't good enough. Who among us has not been guilty of coveting the things of others? Have you ever lusted in your heart? [Mat.5:28 – But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.](#) We are guilty before the Lord! If it were up to us to keep the law, we would all stand condemned before God. You can't work out your salvation! [Ephes.2:8-9 –](#)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Many are trusting in their works but will one day be cast out, [Mat.7:21-23](#).

D. Salvation is not in Miraculous Wonders (6-7) – Here Paul warns of the same mistake the Pharisees demanded while Jesus was among them. They wanted Him to perform some great sign or wonder in their midst before they would believe. Paul wanted them to know their salvation wasn't dependent upon some great wonder or revelation. Salvation is a miraculous event that is beyond explanation, but it does not happen with great signs and wonders. The Lord did use those on occasion, as with Paul, but we can't base or limit our salvation to some miraculous happening.

- If you are looking for God to shine a great light upon you, to speak from a burning bush, or reveal some wonderful vision, you will likely never experience that. The conviction of the Spirit is enough. There are many today who place too much emphasis on feelings. I'm glad to feel the Holy Spirit at times, but my salvation isn't based on feelings; it is based on faith in the finished work of Christ. There have been times since I was saved that I didn't feel saved, but it isn't about me or what I see and feel! We are not required to jump through a bunch of theological hoops in order to be saved, or accomplish some great feat; simple faith is all that is required.

II. The Conditions for Receiving Salvation (8-13) – Paul shared what salvation wasn't, but he didn't leave them hanging. He went on to reveal what is necessary for salvation. There isn't a one here today that these conditions do not apply. Notice:

A. The Availability of Salvation (8, 12-13) – Paul shares a simple, fundamental truth. Rather than trying to reason it out, by trying different paths, working your way in, or seeking a sign, just accept what you have received. He had given them the gospel. They had heard the good news; [it was already in their mouths and in their hearts](#). They just needed to believe. This great salvation was available to each of them; it is a universal gospel, [Vv.12-13](#).

- If you are here today, the gospel is available to you. Jesus came for whosoever will. If the Spirit is dealing with your heart, drawing you to the Lord, He will not reject you. [John 6:37 – All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.](#)

B. The Agreement of Salvation (9a) – [That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus...](#) Paul shares a vital aspect in regard to salvation. We must [confess](#) the Lord Jesus. This involves more than what is merely seen on the surface. [Confess](#) literally means: *“to agree; to say the same thing.”* We must be willing to agree with God the Father about Christ the Son. We must be willing to

confess that we believe all that is recorded in the Scriptures concerning Him. We must be in complete agreement of His virgin birth, His sinless nature, His substitutionary death on the cross for our sin, His bodily resurrection, His work of mediation for believers, and His soon return. If we can't agree with God on all that Jesus is, we will never be saved.

- We can't treat Jesus with a "pick and choose" attitude. If you can't agree with it all, then you are not ready to be saved! You must be willing to confess that you believe that Jesus was and is the Son of the living God and that He came and provided the means for your salvation and your eternal existence. Salvation requires agreement, our confession of who the Lord really is.

C. The Acceptance of Salvation (9b) – *and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.* Agreement with God is not all that is required. We must also accept that Jesus died upon the cross for our sin and that He rose again. Salvation is an individual choice. The Lord will not force it upon you. You may be at the place you are willing to agree as to whom Jesus is and what He has done, but you are not willing to accept it in your heart. There are a lot of people who believe that Jesus lived and died upon the cross. There are a lot of folks who believe that He is the way to forgiveness of sin and life eternal, but they are unwilling to personally accept Jesus as their Savior.

- King Agrippa believed all that Paul shared with him concerning Christ. He said *almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.* He believed what he heard but stopped short of accepting Christ personally. If you believe, then you must accept His offer unto you. I have no doubt Jesus was all the Bible records and more. I have no doubt that He has saved me, but I can't accept Him for you. I believe it enough for both of us, but that doesn't secure your salvation.

D. The Application of Salvation (10-11) – Paul closes with some final instruction on the application of salvation. This involves two aspects.

1. Our Unwavering Assurance (10) – *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* We must be willing to go all the way with the Lord. We can't side step any of His plan. We must first agree with God concerning Jesus and we must accept Him by faith. One without the other is not salvation. Simply believing that Jesus lived is not enough. You can't accept Him if you don't believe in who He is. When we are saved we have agreed with God and accepted the Lord.

- Many try to make it harder than it is. Salvation wasn't meant to keep people away; it is meant to redeem lost sinners. The plan of salvation can be received from the youngest to the old, the learned and uneducated. We just need child-like faith and accept the promises of God.

2. Our Undeniable Affirmation (11) – [For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.](#) Once we are saved we must be willing to publicly confess our new relationship with Christ. This isn't hard to do. I am a bit leery of those who are ashamed of what the Lord has done for them. I remember the day I was saved. I was so relieved and excited that I had to tell someone. I wanted the world to know that I had been forgiven, that I was saved and on my way to heaven.

- A true child of God will have no problem telling others what the Lord has done for them. You don't have to share Him like I do, but there will be a desire to tell others of your salvation. I love to be around new born Christians. They simply can't get enough or seem to get it told what the Lord has done for them. We all need that kind of zeal for the Lord.

Conclusion: You have heard the gospel message today. You may be as those who were confused regarding salvation. If you have never fulfilled what God requires to be saved, I would encourage you to come today. Jesus died for your sin and He wants to save you today! Why not come and be saved?