

Sermon Notes on Rom. 10:1-13, Trinity XVIII

1. Our text unfolds like a flower. It begins with the failure of the Jews to be saved, then it proceeds to show how sinful man is saved and then applies this to Jew and Gentile, for there is no difference.
2. Our text divides itself into several thought sections: Vss. 1-4, 5-7, 8-10, and 11-13. Any one of these sections could be used as a text.
3. Rom. 9, 10 and 11 is the great section on election by grace for both Jews and Gentiles. Each chapter begins with a thought about the failure of the Jews to be saved. 9:1-5 shows Paul's pain for his unsaved kinsmen. It reminds us of Jesus' grief for the Jews at Lk. 19:41; Lk. 13:34 and Mat. 23:37-39. 10:1-4 shows the mistake of the Jews: they wanted their own righteousness, not that of Christ. And 11:1 asks: "Has God rejected His people (Jews)?" The answer is: "By no means." And we know from chapter 11 that God finds His elect among the Jews in each generation of people.
4. 10:1-4 compares the righteousness of sinful man with that of Christ. Man's righteousness is only filthy rags, says Is. 64:6. Paul calls it dung, Php. 3:8, repulsive excrement. It is a delusion. Vs. 4 of our text says: "Christ brings an end to the search for righteousness and gives it to us by faith, without human work and endeavor." His righteousness, brought by the Gospel, is all I need. It alone makes me wise unto salvation.
- 5: 10:5-7 compares man's imagined righteousness with the true righteousness. Vs. 5 makes plain that IF man could keep God's Law perfectly he could be saved. BUT HE CANNOT. Vss. 6-7, based on Deut. 30:12-13 show us the futility of man trying to find righteousness. Maybe he claims to have special visions, bringing God down from heaven. Or maybe he claims in one way or another to conquer death. But both Deut. 30 and our text say: "Don't try that. It is delusion."
6. 10:8-10, built on Deut. 30:14, dwell on the two words "mouth-heart" which were used in Deut. 30:14. The Word which brings man faith is very near. That means you need not seek for it. A very small baby cannot find its mother. The mother constantly seeks the baby and does everything for the helpless baby. How does God help helpless man? He sends His Word, like rain and snow from heaven (Is. 55) and this Word, the Gospel, gives man faith to receive the righteousness of Christ. This Word is in your mouth and in your heart, says Deut. 30:14. Paul applies this. With your mouth you must confess that Jesus is Lord and with your heart you must believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. If you do this you will be saved. Why do we go to church? To confess Jesus in hymns and prayers and to believe what is preached from the pulpit. Christians believe and confess constantly. Vs. 10 says that faith brings us Christ's righteousness and confession brings us to salvation. Jesus said: "He who confesses Me before men him will I confess before My Father in heaven." Mt. 10:32. There are times when these two things are difficult. We have a sinful nature as do the Jews. Our sinful flesh would like to make our own filthy righteousness stand before God. And to confess Jesus is not always easy. It is easy in church. But out in the world it is not always easy.
7. 10:11-13 speak about "faith alone" and all three vss. contain the word "everyone." Is. 28:16 says "Everyone who believes in Him (Christ) will not be ashamed." Not disappointed. God NEVER disappoints those who believe in Him. This is the same for Jew and Gentile. And then he quotes Joel 3:5 (which Peter quoted on Pentecost, Acts 2:12) which means: "Whoever believes in the revelation of Christ (the Gospel) shall be saved."
8. After the Babylonian Captivity the Jews became very strict in religion. We know how strict they were at Jesus' time. As Paul says in vs. 2, they had great zeal but without knowledge. Many Jews are still that way today. Be not deceived. If it is not Christ, it is nothing.

Sermon Outline on Rom. 10:1-13, Trinity XVIII

Theme: THE WORD IS NEAR YOU

Introduction: The air which we breath is everywhere and without price. Likewise, the Word of God is everywhere and without price. The Bible is the best-known book in the world. It endures forever. From generation to generation it sells more copies than any other book. Why then are not all people saved? Let's talk about that.

I-Though the Word is Near to All Not All Are Saved.

A-The Jews are the prime example of this. Vss. 1-5. In Rom. 9:1-5 Paul grieves because so many of his kinsmen, the Jews, are lost. In Rom. 11:1 Paul tells us that God has not rejected the Jews, not even those who reject Him. He gives us the answer in vss. 1-5 of our text. Even though they have religious zeal (vs. 2) it is not in keeping with knowledge, the correct knowledge. The Jews of Jesus' *time* were very religious but it was the incorrect religion. Even today many Jews are pious, zealous and religious but it is not according to knowledge. Why is that?

B-They have not subjected themselves to the righteousness of God. Vs. 3 tells us that they are ignorant of the righteousness of God and try to make their own righteousness stand before God. We know that sinful man's righteousness is as filthy rages, Is. 64:6, and like dung, excrement, Php. 3:8. Who would dress himself in dirty clothing before God. Who would present his own excrement before God as true righteousness? Vs. 4 tells us that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. What does that mean? *failed* It means that since all attempts by man to justify himself before God, Christ has given us His righteousness. It is near us. It is in the Word.

II-What the Word being Near to Us means for Us. Vss. 6-8

A-We should stop searching. We should not try to bring something down from heaven. People who claim to have special visions try to do this. We should not try to bring Christ up from the abyss. People who say that Christ did much but not enough are doing just this. They say that man must add something to what God, in Christ, has done for man. Some say that man must make a decision for Christ. That is not so because faith is a GIFT of God, not a decision. Some say that man is saved by a combination of faith AND works. That is not so. Some say that to be certain of salvation you must have a special experience or have a gift of tongues or something similar. That is not so.

B-The Word is near. It's like the air we breath. It's like the milk which the mother gives the baby. God offers us the air. The mother offers the milk as a gift. Likewise, God's gifts are near in His Word. In His Word He offers us the faith to receive the greatest gift, the forgiveness of sins or the righteousness of Christ. They are the same thing.

III-What This Word Does for Us. Vss. 9-13

A-It causes us to believe with our hearts. Rom. 10:17 says: "Faith comes by hearing and hearing comes by the Word of God." What does this faith believe in? It believes in the righteousness of Christ. I am not my own righteousness. Christ is my righteousness. He is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. This faith causes a person to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. This faith makes me certain that God will never disappoint me. This faith convinces me that God is rich toward me, rich in giving me all blessings which lead to everlasting life.

B-It causes us to confess Christ with our mouths. Our text says that if you confess Christ with your mouth you will be saved. You confess that He is Lord. He has abolished death and brought life to light.

Conclusion: Just because a person acts religious or has religious zeal is no guarantee that he will be saved. Only he who believes with his heart and confesses Jesus with his mouth will be saved.