

RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

ROMANS 10:8-10

INTRODUCTION:

Last Sunday I just touched on the two final verses of Romans 10:4-10 with the promise that we would return to them this morning. The Jews of Paul's day were ignorant of God's perfect righteousness, of God's provision of perfect righteousness through faith in Christ. The Jews believed they were already righteous through their obedience to the rabbinical traditions; they saw no need for righteousness by faith believing they had righteousness by works. Paul contrasted works-righteousness with righteousness by faith in hopes that his kinsmen according to the flesh, the Jews, would understand and come to faith in Jesus Christ. Last week we looked at works-righteousness and just touched on righteousness by faith. This morning we will look at righteousness by faith in more detail.

I. CONFESSION AND FAITH (Romans 10:8-9)

- a. Paul begins verse 8 after telling us in verses 6-7 what righteousness by faith is not, what it does not say to us by asking the question, "*But _____ does it say?*" (Romans 10:8a, NASB95) (Deuteronomy 30:14)
- b. Paul then building off of this verse quoted from Deuteronomy writes how it is in our mouth and in our heart and it has to do with _____ and righteousness by faith.

II. THE TWO ESSENTIALS OF SALVATION (Romans 10:9)

- a. Sadly, there is a lot of confusion in the church today about God's way of salvation, in verse 9 Paul gives us the two essentials of salvation, what is necessary for us to be declared righteous before God.
 1. _____ with your mouth Jesus is Lord.
 2. _____ in your heart God raised Him from the dead.

- b. What does Paul mean when he writes that we must confess with our mouth Jesus is _____? (1 Corinthians 12:3; Philippians 2:8-11)
- c. Paul goes on in verse 9 to say that not only must we confess with our mouth Jesus as Lord, but we must believe in our heart that God _____ Him from the dead. (1 Corinthians 15:13-17)
- d. Verse 9 of Romans 10 is Paul's personal invitation to believe, it is addressed to the reader, "...*if _____ confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in _____ heart that God raised Him from the dead, _____ will be saved;*" (Romans 10:9, NASB95)
- e. As we move into verse 10 Paul is presenting gospel truth concerning _____ in general.

III. FAITH AND CONFESSION (Romans 10:10)

- a. As we move into verse 10 you should immediately notice that Paul _____ the order here from what it was in verse 9.
- b. Paul in this chapter and in many other places that we have been through in this book has been contrasting _____ righteousness with _____ righteousness.
- c. Paul's focus on these two truths, _____, and salvation, give us both the positive and the negative sides of God's gracious plan of redemption. (Philippians 3:8-9)
- d. The negative side of God's plan of redemption is salvation or God's gracious deliverance of a person from the sin that _____ a sinner from holy God.
- e. Often, sadly, these two truths are out of _____ when the gospel is presented or when we are witnessing.
- f. Faith in Christ's lordship and His resurrection both begin in the _____.

CONCLUSION:

To know that Jesus Christ died for us, that He who knew no sin, the One who had lived a sinless life, a perfectly righteous life, became sin for us. All our sin was imputed to Him, He became our

substitute on the cross, suffering God's wrath against sin, and paying the penalty of sin with His death. To know that our sins are forgiven by Christ's sacrifice is wonderful and it carries with it the promise of eternal life, the escape from death and God's wrath and judgment against sin. But it is not salvation that makes us right before God, it is Christ's righteousness imputed and imparted to us so that we become the righteousness of God in Him, in the Lord Jesus Christ, this is what makes us right before God, Christ living out His righteousness, His perfect righteousness in us who have put our faith in Him believing that God raised Him from the dead and believing through confession that Jesus is Lord. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the wonder of salvation is not what we have been saved from, but what we have become in the Lord Jesus Christ, the perfect righteousness of God. I heard a quote this week from a 20th century evangelist by the name Major Ian Thomas, he said, "The life that [Jesus Christ] lived qualified Him for the death that He died, and the death that He died qualifies us to live the life that He lived." Christ living out His perfect righteousness in us through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Let the truth of that statement sink into your heart this morning, you are by faith in Jesus Christ the righteousness of God in the Lord Jesus Christ.