

Title: Saving Faith
Scripture: Romans 10:5-13
Series: God's Saving Grace

1. Introduction:

- a. At the heart of the Bible's teaching about salvation is a simple but powerful distinction between "**law**" and "**gospel**." The "**law**" is everything God commands us to do, while the "**gospel**" is the good news of what God, in His grace, has done for us. The Bible makes it clear that because of our sinful nature, none of us can be saved by trying to follow the law perfectly. Salvation is only possible by accepting, in faith, what God has already done for us through Jesus.
- b. This idea is key to what Paul teaches in Romans 10. He contrasts two types of righteousness: one that comes from trying to follow the law (Romans 10:5) and one that comes through faith (Romans 10:6-13).
 - i. Paul shows that this distinction is not new; it is found even in the Old Testament. Paul proves that the gospel—the message of salvation through faith, not works—has always been part of God's plan, even if it was hard for some to understand.
 - ii. For many Jews, it became a stumbling block, while for Gentiles, it became the foundation of their faith.
 - iii. The gospel does not replace the Old Testament but fulfills it, showing God's consistent plan of salvation through faith in Christ alone.

2. Verse 5: The Impossibility of Righteousness by Law

Keeping: For Moses writes about the righteousness that is

based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.

- a. In verse 5, Paul teaches that the law of God (The Ten Commandments) has a basic principle: if someone could perfectly obey it, they would receive eternal life.
 - i. **Romans 2:13** For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.
 - ii. **Galatians 3:12** But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.”
- b. So Paul quotes Leviticus, but Paul's main point is that salvation through works can only be accomplished by obedience—not just any obedience but perfect obedience to the Law. In other words, salvation by works could only be a reality through a life of complete and total sinlessness.
 - i. **Leviticus 18:5** You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.
- c. Paul highlights the word "**doing**." He warns that anyone who refuses to accept the righteousness that God offers through Christ and instead tries to build a relationship with God by following the law will only find themselves trapped in a cycle of "**doing**"—constantly trying but never able to meet the law's demands.
 - i. **Romans 7:10** The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me.
- d. Paul reminds us that we cannot earn salvation through our own efforts or good deeds. With all its commands, the law ultimately points us to Christ and the beauty of God's love for us. It is not through our own "**doing**" that

we find righteousness or a relationship with God. Instead, it is through Christ's "**doing**"—His perfect obedience to the law for sinners like you and me. The Law must be fulfilled, but we could never fulfill it. We are sinners.

- i. **The person who does the commandments shall live by them.** We cannot perfectly keep the law, but Christ did it for us. He fulfilled the law's demands, earning for us what we could never earn. Our hope is not in what we **do** but in what Christ has already **done**. Through faith in Him, we receive the righteousness of God and the gift of eternal life.
- ii. Beloved, Paul's message is simple: only Jesus can save us! No amount of our own effort, good deeds, or trying to follow the law perfectly will ever be enough. Only Jesus has done what we could never do. He alone offers us salvation, and we are saved through faith in Him.
 1. The path to salvation has been made incredibly simple for those who place their faith in Christ. What was once impossible for sinners has already been accomplished by Jesus. There is no need for us to try and do what is impossible. We cannot earn what Christ has freely given. All that is required of us is to trust in what He has done, not in our own efforts. Christ's work is complete, and through faith in Him, we are saved. Trust in Jesus, Beloved, because He is the only way to God!

3. Verses 6-7: The Futility of Self-Righteousness: But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) (7) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).
- a. If you remember, Paul began Romans 10 with a heartfelt cry for his fellow Israelites. We can picture him, eyes lifted toward heaven, grieving over a people who were passionate about God but missed the point. They had zeal, but their hands were grasping at shadows, not the substance of God’s truth. They had failed to see that justification—the way to be right with God—was not a new idea. It was not something invented by Jesus or Paul. No, it had been there all along, laid out in the life of Abraham. And how was Abraham justified? Not by works or doing all the right things, but by faith alone.
 - i. **Genesis 15:6** And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.
 - b. Salvation by works is impossible, and Paul gives us two pictures to teach this truth!
 - i. First, imagine standing on your tiptoes, arms stretched out to the sky, trying to pull Christ down from the highest heaven. It is impossible! In the same way, no one can be justified by keeping the law or by their own works. It is as absurd as thinking you could drag the Messiah down from heaven yourself.
 - ii. Second, imagine someone descending into the depths trying to bring Christ back from the dead by their own effort. Again, it’s impossible! No amount

of personal goodness or righteousness could ever accomplish this.

- c. Paul's point is this: trying to be saved through the works of the law is as futile as trying to bring Christ back from the dead or pull Him down from heaven. Salvation is not something we can achieve by our own strength. It is a gift, given freely through faith in Jesus Christ, who has already done all the work.
 - i. **Matthew 11:28-30** Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

4. Verse 8: The Simplicity of the True Gospel: But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);

- a. Our verse quotes **Deuteronomy 30:14** But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.
- b. What does this mean? The incredible truth about justification—being made right with God—is not so complicated that we cannot understand it. We do not need a PhD in theology to understand the gospel!
 - i. Paul says that the gospel is "**near you**." It's not far off or hard to reach; it's right in front of you, within grasp. The message of faith is simple enough for a child to understand. It is not hard!
- c. What is hard, however, is letting go of the idea that we can earn our way to God through our own goodness. It

is extremely hard for humans to abandon the belief that God owes us salvation because of our works (this idea that we are good people). But the truth is clear: salvation comes only through faith in Christ when we admit our sinfulness and depravity. Beloved, if you are not saved today, open your heart to this simple yet powerful truth, you need Jesus!

5. Verses 9: The Heart of True Confession: because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
 - a. Beloved, Romans 10:8 reminds us of the truth—that the **word is near us**—that it is easy to receive salvation. We can not rely on our own efforts; we must confess with our lips and have faith in our hearts.
 - i. However, Paul warns us that just saying the right words does not guarantee salvation. While we are called to profess our faith, a confession without genuine belief will not justify anyone.
 1. Beloved, we must be careful; the modern church has led us astray. Many are encouraged to respond to the gospel by coming forward, raising their hands, praying a specific prayer, or signing a card. These practices try to help people finalize their commitment to Christ, and ministers assure them of their salvation if they complete these steps. But we need to ask: what's wrong with this approach?
 - a. The truth is simply professing faith is not enough. It is not just about saying the right

things but about genuinely having faith in Jesus and His work in our hearts. Paul recognized that it is possible to mentally agree with the gospel without it ever touching our hearts.

6. Verse 10-11: The Ingredients of True Saving Faith: For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (11) For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”
- a. Beloved, we do not need academic faith; we need saving faith. So, what does saving faith entail?
 - i. First, the content of our faith is crucial. We often hear, “It does not matter what you believe as long as you are sincere,” but the reality is that what we believe matters greatly. For instance, someone could sincerely believe in the Devil and still not be saved. There is no comfort in faith placed in a false object. Saving faith requires solid biblical content and knowledge. We must believe in Christ—the Christ presented in the Bible, not just any version.
 - ii. Second, we must intellectually agree with the truth of this content. We need to believe in Jesus, sinlessness, death, and resurrection. We must accept that He is God’s only way to salvation. But beware, beloved. Many people stop here, thinking they are saved when they are not. Even demons know the truth of the Bible, and simply agreeing with facts does not save us.

1. There needs to be more than intellectual agreement. Our belief must include personal trust and love for the truth—something no demon can do. That is why Paul emphasizes that we must believe not just in our heads but in our hearts.
- iii. Finally, the third ingredient of saving faith is trust. Beloved, if you believe in your heart and trust in Christ alone, you can have full assurance of your salvation. This means we can be confident in our relationship with God because of our genuine faith in Jesus.
- b. So, beloved, I beg you to ensure that your faith is not just words but a deep, heartfelt trust in Christ alone.
 - i. If you trust Christ from your heart and confess with your lips His Lordship, you will never be ashamed. Many sincere people search for God outside of Christ, and on the Day of Judgment, they will face the shame of their error. But as Christians, we do not need to fear. The righteousness of Christ will make all the difference for us!

7. Verse 12-13: The Universal Call of the Gospel: Salvation for All Who Truly Believe: For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. (13) For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

- a. Paul is not saying that anyone who simply calls on Jesus during a moment of crisis will be saved. In fact, the Bible warns us that when the Lord returns, and God’s

wrath is revealed against those who are unrepentant, many will cry out for help, saying things like, “Jesus, save me!” But at that moment, it will be too late.

- b. Paul teaches that those who call on the name of the Lord, as revealed in Scripture, will be saved. A true calling to God comes from the heart, an authentic plea for the Savior Himself from a sinner who has been awakened to his need by the Holy Spirit. Those who genuinely reach out to Christ will not be turned away.
 - i. ***The Gospel***: At its core, the gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ. It tells us that God, in His love and mercy, sent His Son to save us from our sins. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus offers forgiveness and reconciliation with God. We are justified—not by our own works but by faith alone in Christ alone. This faith is not just an intellectual agreement; it is a heartfelt trust in Jesus as our Savior and Lord. When we truly call upon Him, believing in our hearts, we are assured of our salvation.

8. Benediction:

- a. **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

Pastoral Blessing: **Numbers 6:24-26** The LORD bless you and keep you; (25) the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; (26) the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

**Public Reading of Scripture
Galatians 2:15-21**