

Nursing Home Message No. 36

ROMANS 10:8-11

- 8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;
- 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
- 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

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That is our passage for this afternoon. I want to concentrate on the tenth verse today:

- 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

But, before I do, I want to very quickly give a brief explanation of the entire chapter.

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Paul is writing to the church in Rome:

- 1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

They had hunted Paul from city to city, but the only feeling for them that he had was a wish that they might be saved. Such a wish as that should be in the heart of every Christian; his desire for his bitterest enemy should be that he may be saved.

- 2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

The Jews of Paul's day were zealous, but they were zealous in ignorance. They were so busy trying to work out a righteousness of their own that they never accepted the righteousness which God is prepared freely to give to all those who will receive it at his hands.

- 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

They were very energetic; but they used their energy in going the wrong way. Our righteousness, if we set it up in opposition to God's way of salvation, will only increase our sin. You can be ruined by your righteousness, as surely as by your unrighteousness, if you set it in the place of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ!

- 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

This is the very essence of the gospel, that believing in Christ brings to sinners a righteousness which they can never obtain in any other way. "The end of the law" is to make a man righteous, and Christ does make righteous everyone who believes in him.

When he took our sins on the cross, he offered us his mantle of righteousness in exchange. If we accept it and put it on; if we allow ourselves to be covered with the mantle of His blood, then God the Father sees the righteousness of Jesus Christ whenever He looks at us.

The act of faith in Christ accomplishes what all the good works in the world can never accomplish.

- 5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

That is it: "Do and Live." That is the law, and a very just law, too. Leave **ANYTHING** undone, or break the command in any respect and you die; that is the law!

But the message of the gospel is, "Live and do;" -- a very different thing indeed! The law says, "Work to obtain life." The gospel says, "You have life freely given to you in Christ Jesus; now work for Him because you live by Him."

- 6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

You do not need to mount up to heaven in some special rapturous experience: Believe and live!

- 7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

You do not have to dive down to Hell in remorse over your sins: Believe and live! Just as you are: Believe and live. That is the way of the righteousness of God!

- 8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

The secret of how to be accepted by God is **NOT** hidden somewhere high up in space. It is **NOT** hidden somewhere down in the depths of the deepest pit. It is **NOT** hidden in some arkane secret formula of some secret cult. It is openly proclaimed for all who want it to hear and understand:

- 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

That's the secret! Believe and confess! That is what God requires of you if you wish to be accepted by Him. Believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, and openly confess that Jesus is Lord.

- 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

True faith must be accompanied by an open confession. You must outwardly confirm what you inwardly believe!

- 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

When you stand before God, you will not have to hang your head in shame. Jesus' blood and righteousness will cover all your sins and allow you to look full in His wonderful face.

- 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.

Whosoever will may come!

- 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

What a marvelous promise. That is God's promise to you!

- 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?

Thank God that He sends His people out into the world to preach the gospel. I was saved because other people told me about Jesus. If you are saved, it is because other people told you about Jesus too.

- 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!

Such people don't go out under their own power. They go because God sends them.

- 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

Many people have heard the gospel over and over since they were little children, but they have never obeyed it. That word "obeyed" is very important here: the gospel is not just a message, it is a **COMMAND!** Obey the command: Believe and live!

- 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

If you had never heard the message, how could you be faulted for not obeying it?

- 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.

But you don't have that excuse: you **HAVE** heard the message, and you are hearing it again now. Ignorance of the law is no excuse but, even if it were, you couldn't use it because you **HAVE** heard the command: Believe and live!

- 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.

Thank God that He sent us this word through Moses. People who were regarded as dogs by God's chosen nation are now members of God's family through Jesus His Son.

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.

Perhaps you have never had any religion. Perhaps you have never even darkened the door of a church. Rejoice! You are still precious to God! He wants to strengthen you to find Him even though you have not been seeking him. Believe and Live!

21 But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

Don't be like Israel was. Don't reject Jesus.

BELIEVE AND LIVE!

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But now back to verse ten.

10 For with the heart man believeth
unto righteousness; and with the mouth
confession is made unto salvation.

Believing with the heart must come first; confession with the mouth must and should come afterwards. To confess with the mouth what I do not believe with the heart would be hypocrisy.

But, once you have believed with the heart, your mouth's confession should immediately follow, and should continue throughout the rest of your life.

If you believed a certain person was absolutely the best candidate for President of the United States, you would stand up and say so. And if he lost the election, you would go right on saying he is the best man for the job.

If you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead...

If you believe that Jesus has saved you from your sins...

If you are trusting Jesus' promise to be with you for the rest of your life and to take you to Heaven

to be with Him when you die...

Then say so each and every time you have the opportunity.

And God's promise is to you:

10 For with the heart man believeth
unto righteousness; and with the mouth
confession is made unto salvation.

SALVATION is the result!

Hallelujah!

Amen!

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