

# SAVING FAITH: The Only Way of Salvation

Romans 10:11-21

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**Introduction:** As I sat down next to the young inmate at the Juvenile Hall, he leaned over to me and said, "my name is Chris and I go to....[name of church]. I have gone there since I was born and my father is the children's education pastor." Wow! What a start! The service was just beginning so we did not speak again until we divided up into small groups. I tried to go with a larger group as we were instructed but instead found myself alone with Chris. What do **you** say to a person....any person....who tells you they are a believer? Are we just supposed to say something like...."whew! Now I do not have to witness to them" or "Now we can talk about something other than the gospel!"

People tell me all the time that they are believers. People in addiction, adultery and abuse. But what if they only think they have believed? Have you ever said, "I wish my faith were stronger?" Or worried that your faith was not sincere enough? Do you fear that you are not strong enough in Christ? Do you wonder what God means when He says....

**James 2:14** <sup>14</sup> What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ..... <sup>17</sup> Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself..... <sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

Our passage answers some of these questions. The most compelling of which is this, "IS THERE A FAITH THAT DOES NOT SAVE?" Are there men and women who have failed to understand Biblical Faith? Let's read these verses together :

**Romans 10:11-21** <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; <sup>13</sup> for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." <sup>14</sup> How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup> How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!" <sup>16</sup> However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" <sup>17</sup> So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. <sup>18</sup> But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have; "THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD." <sup>19</sup> But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says, "I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION, BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU." <sup>20</sup> And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME, I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME." <sup>21</sup> But as for Israel He says, "ALL THE DAY LONG I HAVE STRETCHED OUT MY HANDS TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE."

There is nothing more vital for you to understand than saving faith because many possess bogus faith. Satan is the master deceiver and counterfeiter who loves to copy God. He wants to be God, but can't, so he fakes it.

**2 Corinthians 11:14-15** <sup>14</sup> ..... Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup> Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

Most of Satan's servants don't even know they are. Do you think Peter thought he was a servant of Satan? Of course not, but he was when he .....

**Matthew 16:22-23** <sup>22</sup> took *Jesus* aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You." [His crucifixion] <sup>23</sup> But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

So let's allow God to instruct us about Saving Faith this morning. There are three things about it in this passage. Saving Faith is:

- Placed in one man only [11-12]
- Revealed through one method only [14-15]
- Contained in one message only [16-21]

## **PLACED IN ONE MAN ONLY! [Jesus Christ] [11-12]**

For the Scripture says, "**WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.**" [11]: Paul had been quoting Moses who was making the point that God's Word is understandable;

**Deuteronomy 30:11-12** <sup>11</sup> "For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach. <sup>12</sup> "It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?'"

He applies that same principle to salvation by faith alone. "You can understand this," he says. You don't need to send someone to heaven to bring it down here. It is here! It is near to you. It is trust in Christ Jesus who is God the Son! It is ....

**Romans 10:8** ....the word of faith which we are preaching,

Now he quotes Isaiah 26:16. Remember Paul is a preacher of the Bible. He is not making up the gospel on the fly but proclaiming it, ....FROM THE SCRIPTURE.

"Whoever" means "all" or "everyone" or "anyone who believes!" The gospel is not for the pious or religious or the Jew only. Salvation is for anyone because it is based on faith in the man Christ Jesus. He was not just a Jew who died for Jews. He was a human being who died for human beings. This is crucial to the Gospel. Jesus had to be fully human in order to be a fitting substitute for all human beings.

**Hebrews 2:14-18** <sup>14</sup> Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives..... <sup>17</sup> Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

It is not an offer to humans who have a certain genealogy or practice a certain religion or speak a certain language. It is not even for the upright or righteous law keepers! It is for any human being who will believe.....even if they are vile, filthy, diseased of heart and soul and hopeless.

**Luke 5:30-32** <sup>30</sup> The Pharisees and their scribes *began* grumbling at His disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>31</sup> And Jesus answered and said to them, "*It is* not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>32</sup> "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

**For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek [12a]:** In case his readers cannot connect the dots he makes this about as plain as possible. When it comes to salvation there is NO DIFFERENCE between Jews and non-Jews. This does not mean that people are not different in the way they think and live. It means that there is exactly one way for every human being in creation to get right with God. To be saved! IT is God's way only and it is God's Son only. Claiming descendancy from Abraham or adherence to the Law will simply not work with God. Paul is restating here what he has already.

**For the same Lord is Lord of all [12b]:** It is interesting what Scripture does not say here. While talking about salvation it does NOT say "for the same Savior is Savior of all." It says Lord and this is crucial to our understanding of Saving Faith.

I recently had a Jehovah's Witness come to my home and tell me that they believed that Jesus was the only son of Jehovah and that men were only saved by faith in Him. I looked her in the eye and said, "You and I both know that you do not really believe that!" What do you think she did? She hung her head and nodded agreement.

Two Mormon's stood on my porch as I read, "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." **John 4:24**

"We agree, they replied....God has a spirit." I asked them, "Is 'I have an apple and I am an apple the same thing?'" They pretended not to understand the question.

These people at my door all believe they have faith in Christ, but it is not saving faith because it is not in the real Christ. It is a Christ made in their own image. But...Jesus must be confessed as The Lord He really and truly is.

**Romans 10:9** that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

The word "LORD" is overwhelmingly used of The Eternal God throughout the New Testament. It means "owner" or "master." "Lord" ascribes divine attributes to the

Creator and our submission to Him. HE is OUR LORD! It is not a New Testament idea. Listen to the Psalmist!

**Psalm 100:1-5** ..... Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. <sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. <sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; *We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture. <sup>4</sup> Enter His gates with thanksgiving *And* His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. <sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting *And* His faithfulness to all generations.

**Abounding in riches for all who call on Him [12c]:** The Lord abounds in riches toward those He owns and rules. He gives salvation and sonship like a billionaire giving His spare change. When He has given you eternal life He is not diminished in any way. He is just as rich in mercy and blessing as before He bestowed a single blessing. He is infinitely rich and infinitely gracious and He has just as much for any lost person you know as He had for you. Paul describes it to the Ephesians this way....

**Ephesians 2:4-9** <sup>4</sup> But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come He might show **the surpassing riches of His grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**For "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." [13]:** Paul is quoting the prophet Joel who said..

**Joel 2:32** And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.

The word "Call" links everyone [every human being regardless] with salvation. *Morris* observes that the word "Call" is the language of the supplicant to deity." Everyone who calls this way will be saved. But they need to call upon the name of The Lord. Does this just mean using the name of God? Not at all! *MacArthur* says that...

"In the OT, the phrase "call upon the name of the Lord" was especially associated with right worship of the true God. It carried the connotations of worship, adoration, and praise and extolled God's majesty, power and holiness." *John MacArthur*

**Psalm 105:1** Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples.

**Psalm 79:6** <sup>6</sup> Pour out Your wrath upon the nations which do not know You, *And* upon the kingdoms which do not call upon Your name.

Saving faith is the cause of salvation while "calling upon the name of the Lord" is the evidence of it. Salvation in our day is often like a "Get out of Hell Free" card. It is a pass into heaven that we get in exchange for a prayer or mental assent to doctrine. Many believe that God is just waiting in heaven like Santa hoping that men will "believe in

Him.” Once that is done you can go on about your life as you please. You are assured of heaven, but nothing is further from the Truth.

Saving Faith has nothing to do with what you do for God and everything with what He does for you. Today many have faith in a prayer or doctrinal creed rather than in Jesus Christ, The eternal Son of the Living God. The Creator of all things who entered the womb of Mary and became fully human. Your view of Christ must be correct. Faith in a false Christ is not saving faith at all.

## **REVEALED THROUGH ONE METHOD ONLY! [preaching] [14-15]**

**How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? [14a]:** Do you see the biblical order here? You cannot call until you believe. Why would you call upon someone you did not believe could help you to be saved. This is what I meant a few minutes ago when I said...

**Saving faith is the cause of salvation  
while “calling upon the name of the Lord” is the evidence of it.**

**How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? [14b]:** How does faith come? Well...it is a gift of God for sure, but God uses means or tools to deliver the gift. By Grace, God makes us alive to Him when we were dead.

**Ephesians 2:4-5** <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Being suddenly alive we are able to see Christ in His Glory and place trust in Him for our eternal salvation. Grace is the gift leading to faith which in turn leads to Salvation.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**And how will they hear without a preacher? [14c]:** But God uses instruments to do His sovereign saving. It is entirely wrong to imagine that we should not witness to and pray for the lost. These are the means God uses to shower His grace upon men. I was entirely alone when I was saved, but many had proclaimed Jesus to me. At a time chosen by God He made me alive to Him and seeing Him...I believed!

A **“preacher”** is a herald. Webster says a herald is “an officer with the status of ambassador acting as an official messenger.” The New Testament herald was appointed by the King or governor to deliver precise proclamations from that ruler. He was never allowed to change the words or meaning. Nor could he re-interpret the words of the King. He was sent to proclaim them, read them or recite them.”

You should not think for one minute that Scripture is talking about something like I am doing now. I use my gift to herald Christ’s Words to men, but you have other gifts with which you herald the truth about Christ. You are one of the preachers that Paul is

referring to....not me! Men do not need to know what we think! They need to hear, know and understand what God thinks. What He says is true and how He says you must be saved.

**How will they preach unless they are sent? [15a]:** Where did this handful of people who exalted Jesus to me come from? They were sent to me. First of all by Jesus.

**Matthew 28:19-20** <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

When Jesus prayed for the eleven as they went out, He included us.

**John 17:20** <sup>20</sup> "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;

Heralds are sent by Christ but empowered by the Holy Spirit to exalt Him to men. Jesus said to the eleven...

**Acts 1:8** <sup>8</sup> but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

**Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!" [15b]:** Returning to the prophet Isaiah, Paul quotes a passage that, according to Morris...

"The rabbis understood in a messianic sense. It is interesting to have the feet selected as the beautiful parts of the body. But, of course, the messengers normally travelled on foot and the feet were the significant members. They might be dirty and smelly after a long, hot journey, but to those who eagerly awaited good news they were beautiful. Those who bring good news are always welcome" *Leon Morris*

## **CONTAINED IN ONE MESSAGE ONLY! [saving faith] [16-21]**

**However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" [16]:** But...men and women can hear the gospel and not believe it. Today's response to this is the mistaken idea that we need to package the gospel in ways people can and will embrace. Scripture says it is the work of men to faithfully proclaim the true Christ, and the work of God to save men. When churches and pastors do not understand or believe this they live with a constant quest for relevancy. By that they mean something that 21<sup>st</sup> century man can accept and find appealing. BUT....

**So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. [17]:** So many today have a faith that is not faith in Jesus Christ. Do you remember the young man I spoke about earlier? When I asked him what faith was, he said, "going to church, trying

to pray and live right so that I can please God.” This is **NOT** saving faith, because it is faith in yourself. He is hoping that he can muster something up that God will approve and he was told that is “faith.”

According to this verse Saving Faith comes from hearing the word of Christ or the “Word about Christ.” Either way it is summed up by Jesus Himself when He said...

**John 14:6** ..... "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

The herald of Christ needs to know who Christ is and what Christ has done. You do not need to know any more than this to proclaim Him. You need to know much more to effectively worship Him. In fact, the more you know of Him the more you will love Him and adore Him, **BUT**....saving faith comes through the hearing of the Gospel Word of Jesus Christ.

**But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have; "THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD."** [18]: One of the purposes of Romans 9-11 is to explain why Israel has not embraced her Messiah. Did God’s prophets get it wrong? **NO!** Did God simply not keep His promises to Israel? Again...**NO WAY!** Here the question is asked... “Well, did they just never hear about their Messiah so that they could recognize Him when He appeared? **NO! NO! NO!**

This is very akin to what Paul has said in Chapter One.

**Romans 1:19-20** <sup>19</sup> because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Here Paul quotes Psalm 19 to make the same point. The knowledge of God has gone out to men so that they cannot say they know nothing about Him.

**But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says, "I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION, BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU."** [19]: Yes they did know because they heard, but became so arrogant in their standing as God’s chosen that God had to make them jealous by saving the Gentiles, whom they hated. Jesus started this process in Matthey 21.

**Matthew 21:33-46** <sup>33</sup> "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who **PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT AND DUG A WINE PRESS IN IT, AND BUILT A TOWER,** and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey. <sup>34</sup> "When the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. <sup>35</sup> "The vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third. <sup>36</sup> "Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them. <sup>37</sup> "But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' <sup>38</sup> "But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' <sup>39</sup> "They

took him, and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. <sup>40</sup> "Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?" <sup>41</sup> They said to Him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers who will pay him the proceeds at the *proper* seasons." <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER *stone*; THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES '?" <sup>43</sup> "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it. <sup>44</sup> "And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust." <sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they understood that He was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup> When they sought to seize Him, they feared the people, because they considered Him to be a prophet.

**And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME, I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME."** [20]: God was not taken by surprise by Israel's rejection of Christ. Isaiah spoke of it 500 years before. Christ knew about it when He told the parable above.

**But as for Israel He says, "ALL THE DAY LONG I HAVE STRETCHED OUT MY HANDS TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE."** [21]: The point in closing is this....God is not unfair or unjust to show grace to the gentiles. He held out His hand for two thousand years to a people who were obstinate and disobedient. Salvation has not been withdrawn from Israel.... it has been offered to the gentiles. Israel may still come, but not on their own terms. They must come as the Gentiles come...on God's terms which reject all human righteousness and religion and put Saving Faith only in Jesus Christ and His sinless life and substitutionary death for us.

**CONCLUSION:** Today, all men are saved exactly the same way. God the Son became a human man in order to save humans from every nation, tribe and tongue. He rejects the righteous works of all men and accepts only the righteousness of His Son Jesus Christ. He rejects the Sacraments of all religions and accepts only the Sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ for your sins in His own body on the Cross. Jesus is the human provision for the sins of humans. Be very certain you understand this! If not ask me to or someone to help you. Pray and ask God to open your understanding. I want to give John MacArthur the final word this morning:

“With simple, progressive logic Paul establishes that only those who call upon the name of the Lord can be saved, only those who have believed in Him can call upon Him, only those who have heard of Him can believe in Him, only those who have a preacher can rightly hear of Him and finally, no preacher can preach the true gospel who has not been sent by God. Viewed from the other direction, Paul is saying that if God did not send preachers no one could hear, if no one could hear no one could believe, if no one could believe no one could call on the Lord and if no one could call on Him no one could be saved. *John MacArthur*

**Acts 4:11-12** <sup>11</sup> "He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, *but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone.* <sup>12</sup> "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."