

Romans: The Message of Salvation
Romans 10:5-21

The why of faith (vv. 5-8)

- Moses in v. 5: “Do this and live” (You can’t!).

You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the Lord. (Leviticus 18:5)

- Paul was not criticizing Jews who revered the Law as God’s Word of instruction.
- Paul was criticizing Jews who relied on the Law as God’s way of salvation.

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” ¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” ¹² But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” (Galatians 3:10-12)

No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good. (C.S. Lewis)

- Moses in vv. 6-8: “Trust this and live” (You can!).

It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ (Deut. 30:12-13)

For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:3-4)

The what of faith (vv. 9-13)

- Saving faith acknowledges that Jesus is Lord over me.
 - We acknowledge that Jesus is King—His claims and authority are unlimited.
 - We acknowledge that Jesus is God—His glory and power are unrivaled.

The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ³² And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls. (Joel 2:31-32)

- Saving faith trusts that Jesus is raised for me.

I am a Christian, not because I think I can walk in Jesus's footsteps, but because He is the only one Who can carry me. I am not the gospel; Jesus Christ alone is the gospel. His story

saves me, not only by bringing me justification, but by baptizing me into His resurrection life. (Michael Horton)

- Application:

- We should be mindful that faith in Christ is a matter of the heart.
- We should be hopeful that faith in Christ is not a matter of intensity.

We must distinguish between weakness of faith and no faith. A weak faith is true. The bruised reed is but weak, yet it is such as Christ will not break. Though thy faith be weak, be not discouraged. The promise is not made to strong faith, but to true. The promise says not whosoever has a giant-faith that can remove mountains, that can stop the mouths of lions, shall be saved; but whosoever believes, be his faith ever so small. (Thomas Watson)

The how of faith (vv. 14-21)

- There must be preaching, for faith comes through hearing.
 - Sometimes our gospel preaching efforts will be rejected...

But they have not obeyed the gospel. (v. 16)

- But our gospel preaching efforts will always be beautiful.

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news! (v. 15)

The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. (Isaiah 40:7-8)

- There must be humility, for faith demands our surrender.

Anyone can get in on this. It makes sense, doesn't it? Since it is all of mercy, no one deserves it, and yet it is available to all. Since the gospel is all grace and mercy, it can be for anyone, regardless of how idiotic you may be! It can be for you, if it's not too far beneath you. (Ray Ortlund, Jr.)