

Romans

Dr. Charles "Buddy" Parrish
February 26, 2025
Romans 10:1-13



Romans 10:1-13

Vss. 1-4

- Again, Paul is not writing as an angry man to an enemy. That the Jews have repeatedly tried to kill him time and time again for years is of no consequence. He has already forgiven them for those offenses. No, he is writing as a man with a broken heart as he watches the people he loves not just miss the coming of the Messiah, not just have the blood of the Messiah on their hands, but even now drift further and further away from the One whom for centuries they have prayed to come...the only One who can save them. And it is Paul's heart's desire and prayer that they be saved.
- He knows he has been saying a great deal in the letter that the Jews would be offended by or at the very least choke on. Truth is often that way. But Paul knows that unless he can kill their arguments and show them THE Way as opposed to the religion of rules and Law they have always known, then they will never be saved.
- People today are quick to praise someone who "speaks truth to power". Paul is only concerned with preaching Truth in Love. He readily admits that the Jews have a great "zeal for God" and that they are very sincere in their beliefs...but they are sincerely wrong, choosing to build up a righteousness for themselves rather than surrendering to the righteousness of God, for by faith Christ is the end, the goal, of all righteousness.
- A zeal such as the Jews had for the Law is impressive. William Barclay shares that the Sabbath law "laid down exactly how far a man could walk on the Sabbath. It was laid down that he must lift no burden which weighed more than two dried figs. It was laid down that no food must be cooked on the Sabbath. It was laid down that, in the event of sickness, measures might be taken to keep the patient from becoming worse, but not to make him better. To this day there are strict orthodox Jews in this country who will not poke or mend a fire on the Sabbath or switch on a light. If a fire has to be poked a Gentile is employed to do it. If a Jew (today) is wealthy enough he will sometimes install a time switch to switch on the lights at dusk on Sabbath without his doing so himself". In the Apocrypha is the book of 4th Maccabees and it tells the story of how after Jerusalem was sacked by the army of Antiochus Epiphanes, whose goal was to wipe the Jewish faith from the earth, he chose a Jewish man to set as an example and ordered the man to eat pork. The man refused and he was beaten and tortured until the soldiers were begging him to at least fake it and again he refused and was tortured until he died. He was tortured and died because he wouldn't eat

pork. But to the man's mind it wasn't about the pork, it was about his zeal for the Law and his absolute unwillingness to consciously break it in any way.

Vss. 5-8

- Paul quotes Leviticus 18:5 where Moses declares that the one who practices righteousness based on the Law will live. The problem was, and the Jews recognized it, that no one ever did fully practice the righteousness of the Law. So Paul moves on to Deuteronomy 30:12-14 where Moses says that you won't find this righteousness by ascending into heaven or by crossing the sea or descending into the Abyss. No, its not far off, for indeed "the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it" (Deuteronomy 30: 14). Paul then says to his Jewish audience that THIS is the Word of faith that we are preaching to you! This is nothing new. It has been the Truth from the beginning.

Vss. 9-13

- Verses 9-10 are pivotal for the whole book of Romans. The reason that Deuteronomy 30:14 is so vitally important is because "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"!!
- Finally Paul brings home the unity of the church by quoting Isaiah 28:16, "**Whoever** believes in Him will not be disappointed/put to shame". Jew or Gentile: **Whoever believes!**
- Jew or Greek, the Lord is Lord of ALL!
- Joel 2:32, "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved!"
- A Jew would have a very hard time accepting that Gentiles could be saved, or even that God cared for them at all. This Way of Confession and Faith leading to salvation for anyone seemed so hard to swallow. But Isaiah and Joel keep saying that "Whoever" calls on the Lord will be saved. No conditions. No racial qualifications. The promise of Salvation is for everyone. The prophets themselves are saying that salvation is by grace, through faith.