

## Men's Bible Study

Romans 10:12-21

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of November

Session 28 of ?

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### Romans 10:12-21 NASB

12 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;

13 for "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

14 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?

15 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!"

16 However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?"

17 So faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of Christ.

18 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."

19 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."

20 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."

21 But as for Israel He says, "All the day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and obstinate people."

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### Illustration

Of my earliest memories was of a place called Ordside service. It was a corner lot owned by my Uncle Robert and housed a one-stop auto service center. It was a place where you could get the best Chevron gasoline. Three pumps provided the fully leaded Super, Ethel, and Regular. If my memory serves me well the regular was 29 cents a gallon and for Mom, two dollars would be enough to last a couple of weeks. Included in the complex was a car parts dealership serving the entire town of Marina and most of the Military personnel of Fort Ord. There was one of the first fully automatic car washes.

And my dad worked as a mechanic in the auto repair business behind the parts house. There were four giant roll-up doors for three repair bays and one for tires and oil changes.

Back and across the back of this family business was an area for cars that could not be repaired or fixed. High cement block walls went around this area with barbed wire on top. Occasionally a part from one of these cars was used to fix another. It was called the salvage yard.

I was not a church kid. There were 16 cousins in our little town of 1,645. There was a little church about a ¼ of a mile away where I got my first encounter with all the “Church words”. When I heard salvation. I immediately thought about that section of Ordside service. The salvage yard. Salvage, Salvation, it sounded close enough. I figured salvation had to do with finding worth in something that nobody else wanted or needed. Salvation was about going out back and claiming something that was broken and messed up and then using it to fix something else.

My idea of Salvation became an outgrowth of this idea. I was broken and I needed something to fix me from the salvage yard. Salvation was getting worth from something that was very broken. Salvation was making something good out of the worthless.

So when I attended that little church the youth leader told us we needed to be saved. I saw myself as something that was worthless and I had parts that needed to be used for better things.

I guess I was pretty close.

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## Introduction

Chapter 10 of the letter written to the Church in Rome is a continuation of Paul’s thoughts about the Jews who made up the majority of the body who called themselves Christians. He has already shown them that they have had numerous opportunities in the past to enter God's salvation. However, he wants them to know that God is still working to bring them to faith. This chapter is all about what God is doing to bring men to Himself. In these verses, we are given a crystal-clear picture of God's plan of salvation. What we will see is that salvation centers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the common misunderstandings in our day is that man somehow cooperates with God in bringing about salvation. People believe that they must be good to be accepted. Or, that they must do certain things to please the Lord and earn His good favor. Yet, this is simply a mistake. What we will see here is just what we saw in chapter nine. Salvation is the work of God.

## Case for the Jews

The Jews in the church saw themselves as the elite and the elect. They were special. They were the chosen people. They had a zealous zeal for God. They looked into the crude mirrors of the day and saw a picture of righteousness. Righteousness by a lifestyle. They were saying, “Look at me I am the best of you”. So Paul sets this mistake at rest by simply stating there is no distinction in verse 12, “my Jewish brothers, you are not special by your customs, culture, decent, or your zeal, WE ARE ALL THE SAME.”

There is nothing in your lives that would set you apart. Even if you were one in a million there would be 8,000 of you. Walt Whitman. “I am my own version of perfection” but I disagree. If we are our own version of perfection that means there are 8.1 billion examples of perfection.

The problem comes with all this striving to be special, we all become special. There is a desire to proclaim our specialness by trophies on the wall, or degrees behind our name. We are all on a literal level playing field.

It does not matter if you are male or female, tall or short, scholar or slacker, spray-tanned beauty queen, or skid row beggar. It does not matter if you have attained level 30 in some video game, or the most handsome in this room. It doesn't matter if you have perfectly combed hair or no hair at all. So if everyone is special then no one is. But what Paul was saying was that we are made in a divine image. God has a plan for all people.

What Paul was saying there was no distinction in their Jewishness and by fast-forwarding to the 21<sup>st</sup> century there is no distinction between everyone.

The Jews were saying we are in a special class of particular people. That deserves to have first place in the line to heaven. It did not matter if you were righteous in your observance of God's law. The law is not a participant trophy.

Paul says it simply and directly "It makes no difference we are all the same." There is no distinction. There is nothing that sets you apart. There is no special ticket to the head of the line in Disneyland.

We are not special because you are a Jew, or tall, or smart, or have hair, or go to church, or feed the poor, or move chairs, or teach, or cry at the drop of a well-crafted speech, or recite from memory the Lord's prayer.

The case for Jewish specialness is there is no distinction.

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## So what is salvation if it is not becoming special?

We are not special because it is by grace. God's unmerited favor.

The basis of salvation is grace.

**The term "salvation" can be defined as the act of saving or delivering a person's soul from the consequences of sin. It refers to the process of being cleansed from the guilt and power of sin, and being granted eternal life through faith in a God.**

So what is salvation?

1. Is salvation "my dad going out to the salvage yard and finding a serviceable part to use to replace something that is broken?"
2. Is salvation a reward for good behavior?
3. Is salvation something God does because we are "less bad" than someone else?
4. Is salvation something reserved for someone who has a good heart?
5. Is salvation something set apart for those who have great potential?
6. Is salvation a trophy for participation?

Salvation was not a reward for good behavior. It was not because we were “less bad” than someone else or had a good heart or had great potential. It’s not even a reward for showing faith. “Grace” means that it was based on nothing good or meritorious about us; it was a gift of God.

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### The instrument of salvation is faith.

Faith is not simply a religious feeling or becoming more “Christian.” Faith is the hand that lays hold of Jesus. It’s the belief that Christ has accomplished it all, just like he said he did, and simply resting our hope on that.

The best picture of this is in the Old Testament—where all the best pictures are. When you brought a lamb to sacrifice for your sins, the priest would put it on the altar. Then, you would reach your hand out and put it on the head of the lamb, and you would begin to confess your sinfulness. As you confessed, the priest would take a knife and cut the throat of the lamb, and the blood would drain out. Your hand symbolizes your sinfulness being transferred onto the innocent lamb.

When you become a Christian, you reach out to the Lamb of God and say, “I believe you came for me. You died for me. And there is nothing I can do to save myself. I am transferring my guilt onto your head. You are my blessed assurance.”

God has already (past tense) completed the purchase of our salvation. When we claim that as our own in faith, it becomes ours.

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### The result of salvation is good works.

We’re not saved by good works; but if we are saved, we will do good works.

That’s because when God saves us, he unites us with Christ and begins to infuse his life into us. There’s no way to be hit with that kind of force, to have that kind of power working in us, and not change.

Have you experienced the grace of God? Then how can you say you understand and believe the gospel and not love him? How can you say you love God while enjoying those things that put him on the cross?

We’re saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.

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### Confusion Of Israel

The Jews, in their desire to please God by their works, totally missed the truth that God is pleased through faith alone, Heb. 11:6. True righteousness can never be produced by the works of the flesh. Why? Because the flesh is totally corrupt and incapable of producing anything righteous that will be accepted by God, Isa. 64:6. Israel thought they could please God by keeping His Law. They failed to see that they could never keep the Law and that real righteousness is awarded to those who simply look to God by faith and trust Him and the finished work of Jesus on the cross! This was the example left to them by Abraham, Gen. 15:6.

Sadly, many are in that same place today. They are trying to be good so that they can please God and earn a place in Heaven. They hope God will weigh their good against their bad. Their hope is that they will have more good than bad and that God will let them into Heaven on the basis of their good works. However, the Bible is clear when it tells us that this will never work, Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5. Again, I must remind us all that it is not about what we can do, it is about what Jesus has already done for us!

This is not to say that we shouldn't live right. Once we are saved it is not the end of all. We do not get an additional trophy or "I am special" badge. We are saved so I am done. We are saved by grace, I totally agree. But to stop there and just receive a graduation diploma is not the end, it is the beginning of a new life. If we are really born again, we are free from the Law, but we are not free to follow sin. In fact, we are free from the bondage of sin and are more able to live for the Lord than we have ever been, Rom. 6:6-18!)

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### Their Rejection Is Confusing

Israel had the prophets. They had the Law of God. They had heard the report of the coming Messiah and they had even had the Messiah in their midst. They had even seen the Lord turn to the Gentiles and save many of them. In fact, during Paul's day, the Gentiles were pouring into the kingdom of God while the Jews steadfastly refused to believe. It is confusing that they were able to sin against so much light and still not come to God. They heard and they knew, yet they refused to believe!

While this is truly confusing, it is no more so than those who come into our modern churches where the Word of God and the Gospel are preached. These people hear the truth and they know the truth, yet they refuse to come to Jesus. Why? I don't know! I suppose it all goes back to what we learned in chapter 9, man is dead in sin and headed to Hell until he is awakened to his condition by the grace of God. They are like the Jews in Jesus' time. He said this about them in Matt. 13:13; "because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand." It is a situation for which there are no easy answers and no easy cures! However, it is the way things are and we must accept them by faith!

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### Five questions that must be asked.

The good news: you've just inherited \$10 million from a distant relative that you haven't seen in decades! The bad news: no one told you about it, so your life is the same as always. Good news is only good news for you when you hear it and act on it. Paul asks five questions that must be answered about Salvation.

1. Who do we call for salvation?
2. How shall we call if we don't believe?
3. How can we believe if we have not heard?
4. How can we hear if we have no herald?
5. How are they to be sent?

The gospel is the best news in the world, but it isn't good news at this point for approximately two billion (28%) of the world's population, who are presently cut off from access to the gospel. An unreached or least-reached people is a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this group. Of these almost 7,000 groups, 2,087 are over 50,000 in population.

In our text, Paul makes a simple point that in some way will change the direction of your life when it grips you:

Since the gospel is good news for all, we must proclaim it to all.

#### 1. Who do we call for salvation?

Romans 10:13 ***For whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.***

If there is no distinction then salvation is available to those who call in His direction. We must be clear here. It may not sound fair to us but nevertheless, there is only one name to be called for salvation. It is the way of Jesus and no other. Our call must be on God's terms no mine. I must put my requirements on to the recipient of my calling. We call not on my terms but HIS. It is not a contract. I will do this if you do that. It is a simple cry for HELP. Jesus is the only hope for salvation. He is my only hope. Too many simply say, "that is not fair" If God loves me why should I have to call in the first place. Or more to the point, "Why are not all saved?" How about the Hindu, Buddhists, Islam, Shinto, and the Mormans?

There is no distinction. All must call to the one hope.

This is the claim of the Jews in Romans, "If I am chosen by God to be a part of his People why do I have to call anyone?"

Matthew 13:13 ***Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand."***

#### **THERE IS ONE NAME TO BE CALLED THAT IS SUFFICIENT FOR THE NEED**

It's important to keep this in mind when you talk to educated people about Christ. It's easy to be intimidated by their great learning. They will argue that evolution is true that the Bible is full of contradictions or that a loving God could not allow all the suffering in the world. But these things are just smokescreens to keep you from getting too close to their real need: They are sinners who stand condemned before a holy God. They have past and current sins that have alienated them from God and have created problems in their lives. Their number one need is to be saved before they die and face judgment.

**All people have one primary need: to be saved before they die and face judgment.**

"Whoever" occurs in verses 11 & 13 and "no distinction" in verse 12. In 3:22-23 Paul wrote, "for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." That's the bad news. But here his focus is on the good news, that there is no distinction when it comes to receiving the abundant riches that God pours out on all who call on Him. But before people will

call out to God to save them, they must realize that they're in deep trouble and need to be saved. All people are guilty before God and headed for death and judgment. Thus all people need to be saved.

Since every person is a sinner, his or her main need is to be reconciled to God before he dies. It's also important to keep this in mind when you're talking with a good person. You may be tempted to think, "He doesn't need to be saved. Look at what a nice person he is. Look at how kind and loving he is. He puts most Christians I know to shame!" And, of course, the good person agrees with you, even though he might never say so. He compares himself with others and thinks, "Surely it will go well with me when I stand before God. I'm not like other people!" (See Luke 18:11-12.) But he's blind to his pride and self-righteousness. The good person is usually the most difficult type to reach with the gospel, because he doesn't see his need for it. Show him God's holy law, which is designed to expose his sin (Rom. 3:19-20). Because all people are sinners, they all have the same need to be saved before they die and face judgment.

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## 2. How shall we call if we don't believe 14A

How can we call without belief? No calling without belief. So what do we have to believe?

- We believe in His Virgin Birth
- We believe in his sinless nature
- We believe in His Lordship
- We believe to know Him is to know God
- We believe he is the only solution for our salvation
- We believe He died on the cross for our sins
- We believe in His resurrection.
- We believe He ascended into Heaven
- We believe He will return to judge the living and the dead.

All these are essential to salvation! All of these are the Gospel.

IT is not a heavenly buffet. You can not pick and choose what you believe. And still be saved.

The good news is that on the cross, Jesus bore all of our guilt and shame so that the one who believes in Him will not be put to shame at the final judgment. Paul explains (10:12) that this good news applies equally to the religious Jew and to the pagan Gentile, because the same Lord is Lord of all. Some think that Lord refers to God the Father, and it may, but since Paul has just said that Jesus is Lord (10:9) and since the context of 10:11-17 is all about believing in Jesus, it is more likely that Lord in both 10:12 & 13 refers to Jesus. He is the Lord of all. The Lord Jesus abounds in riches for all who call on Him. If anyone calls on the name of Jesus, he will be saved.

The point in our text is that no matter how sinful your past, if you will believe in the Lord Jesus and call upon Him to save you, He will do it out of the abundant riches of His grace. This good

news applies to every person from every race and from every walk of life: Call on the name of the Lord and you will be saved.

All people have one primary need: to be saved before they die and face judgment. All people need one message: the good news that whoever believes in Jesus will not be put to shame.

So Paul's main point here is that the gospel is good news for all. Any guilty sinner, no matter how sordid his past, who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. John Bunyan has a wonderful treatise, "The Jerusalem Sinner Saved," based on Jesus' words to the apostles just before His ascension (Luke 24:47), "that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations," and then He added, "beginning from Jerusalem." Jerusalem was the city where sinners crucified the Savior. But our sin also crucified Him. There is forgiveness for all Jerusalem sinners. Proclaim it to the nations!

### 3. How can we believe if we have not heard V14B

If we look carefully at all instances of salvation in the New Testament we find the first requirement for salvation is the provision of Jesus, second a belief in that provision, third someone presenting that provision.

Acts 8:26-39 The eunuch had to hear to believe

Acts 9:1-18 Paul had to hear to believe

Acts 10:1-48 Cornelius had to hear to believe

Acts 16:25-40 The Philippian jailer had to hear to believe

There is a necessity to hear to believe

Belief in some nebulous God of the universe who may be assumed because we see order is not salvation. It is not reaching the next level of recycling of our souls. It is not reaching some Nirvana or even some great enlightenment.

Belief must come from those who have experienced the love and salvation of someone who has been there. Everyone is in need of salvation but without hearing there will be no calling and without calling there is no salvation.

### 4. How can we hear if there is no one to herald?

**Kēryssō** It is a word that was used of John the Baptist, Jesus, Phillip, the crowds who had heard, and teachers. The word really means someone to get attention and reveal what they know. It is a trumpet blower in the middle of a crowd. It is a herald. It is a witness to wonder. To preach, proclaim, tell, often urging acceptance of the message, with warnings of consequences for not doing so. A public crier, especially divine truth (the gospel): proclaim, publish. To be a trumpet blower to get attention to a divine truth.

Interesting word here. Most translations use the word preach. But that has become in our culture as a person set apart to a singular vocation. A preacher is seen as special. It is the responsibility of the preacher to spread the gospel. We invite people to church so that they may hear and believe and call. I think it is too easy to just say this is only a select few who are the tellers of the Gospel. To think it is just for the ones up front is to be misled. To think it is



just for those who are on staff are missing the mark. To think it is just for those who are in leadership are as misled as the Jews of the book of Romans.

## 5. How are they to be sent V 15-17

We should ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into the harvest.

Romans 10:15a: “How will they preach unless they are sent?” God saved Paul and appointed him as a minister and a witness, sending him to the Gentiles (Acts 22:21; 26:16-17). The church acts as a secondary sender, affirming God’s call to those He sends (Acts 13:1-3). To take the gospel to every people, as Jesus commanded in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 24:49), those who are sent out need to cross-cultural and linguistic barriers to communicate the gospel to those who have not heard. Jesus instructed us (Matt. 9:38), “Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

Preach and preacher come from the Greek word meaning herald. The herald was sent out under the authority of the king to proclaim faithfully the king’s message. He didn’t make up his own message that would be more palatable to the hearers. He might get killed by an angry mob who didn’t like the king’s message, but he still had to tell them the truth. Those sent out with the gospel cannot tweak it to fit what people may want to hear. They have to tell them that they have sinned against the holy God and rightfully are under His judgment so that they will see their need for the Savior. They must confront people’s universal belief that they are good enough to merit salvation so that they will abandon their good works and call on the Lord to save them.

But of the greatest importance is we are heralds also. We who have experienced God’s gracious salvation should pray for ourselves to be workers to be sent out. We too are heralds.

As long as there are billions of people who have never heard that news, we must commit ourselves to getting the good news to them. There is an African proverb, **“There is only one crime worse than murder on the desert, and that is to know where the water is and not tell.”** We know where the water is! We’ve got the greatest news in the world: God forgives every sinner who trusts in Jesus as Lord and Savior! We’ve got to tell everyone.

Here are a few practical steps. First, begin locally. Begin praying for the salvation of those you have regular contact with. Pray for opportunities to talk to them about the Savior. Reach out to the international students in our city. Second, educate yourself about world missions. Read about missions. Join one of our A-teams. Pray for our missionaries. Give to the cause of missions, especially to those trying to take the gospel to those who have yet to hear. Finally, God may call some of you to go to those who have never heard. With Isaiah (6:8) respond, “Here I am. Send me!”

## Their Rejection Is Continuing

Here the Apostle quotes the prophet Isaiah to remind them of His love and His patience toward them. Even though they have and continue to reject Him, He still reaches out to them and wants them to turn to Him. Throughout their history, Israel had been guilty of rejecting the clear path they had been given by God and of choosing their own path to Him. They attempted to reach God through self-effort and self-righteousness. Both of which failed terribly. This condition of Israel was spoken of by the Lord Jesus in a parable given in Luke 14:21-24. Because they refused to come, He turned to others. This was also the reason for the words of Christ in Matt. 23:37 ***“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who have been sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.***

They had been given God's plan of salvation, but they refused to follow it. As a result, they came under His condemnation and judgment. Such will be the case of every sinner who refuses to repent and honor God's plan for the salvation of his soul!

## Conclusion

Conc: If we can learn anything from this passage, may we learn the truth that God only has one plan of salvation. It is not a Jewish plan, nor is it a Baptist plan. If we expect to miss Hell and to go to Heaven when we leave this world, then we must come to God on His terms. We must reject every work of the flesh and every attempt to get there on our own. Let us do as Peter commanded in 2 Peter 1:10, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:" be certain you have come to God on His terms and that you are truly saved tonight. Are you saved?