

The All Time Greatest Evangelistic Tool or

The Devil's Favorite Bible Verse?

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by C. Benjamin Dill

Romans 10:1-13

- 1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.
- 2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.
- 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.
- 4 For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.
- 5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.
- 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*.)
- 7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)
- 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.
- 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.
- 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

Who has not in America turned on the TV and heard a preacher quote Romans 10:13 and instruct the viewers to call on Jesus? “Just ask Jesus into your heart,” they say.

The most popular, watched and listened to one of all says it like this, ‘Would you pray with me; just say, “Dear Lord Jesus, I repent of my sins, I make you Lord of my life;’ we believe that if you prayed that simple prayer you just got born again.”

Romans 10:13 surely does have to be one or the other; it is either the all time greatest evangelistic tool ever – or, if not, – it really must be the Devil’s favorite Bible verse.

It seems there is a type and style of religious practice and preaching for every personality out there today.

There are the ritualistic formal services with the homily included toward the end.

There are the totally informal, even casual types of services; some wild, outrageous and labeled “charismatic,” others not so much.

One might say by surface observation, “Wasn’t it nice of God to provide something for everybody; a style to fit everyone’s personality?” I believe a slightly deeper look will show you something else.

The types of preaching out there today range widely from basically two perspectives: The liberal end of the spectrum seems to be primarily about what you can get from God or what God can do for you...the legalistic end of the spectrum is all about what God demands of you.

Both of these perspectives at least partially use the Word of God to back up what they want to say to you; sometimes accurately and sometimes not so much.

Here at Lighthouse we have committed ourselves to something different than either of these two common perspectives.

The Bible clearly instructs men of God as to how Biblical preaching is to be done:

2Timothy 4:2-4

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

It is one thing to use scripture to back up what you want to say. It is another to use explanation and illustration to enhance our understanding of what God is saying to us in and through His Word. Do you understand the difference?

When we preach what God has to say and illustrate and explain it well, God's people will get a well rounded balance of what God wants to do for us as well as what He requires of us for His glory.

Now let's go and see what God has to say about Romans Chapter Ten:

I. The Problem being addressed.

A. Clicks, bigotry and division within the body.

1. The writing of Paul's letter to the Romans was motivated by a sin problem that was tearing the Church apart.
2. The Jews who by nature and also by previous instruction kept to themselves and did not intermingle with Gentiles, now found themselves in a new situation.

3. Under the New Covenant and in reaction to the Jews as a Nation rejecting their Savior, both the Apostle Peter and the Apostle Paul were instructed directly to take the Gospel to the Gentiles; which they did.
4. The Gentiles received the Lord with gladness by the thousands and multitudes were saved and baptized in the months and years to follow.
5. It should be noted that even though the Jews in general as a Nation did reject the Lord; thousands of Jews did not reject him; every member of the very first Church was a Jew.
6. The Great Commission to every real Church is that they preach the Gospel to every creature; to teach them how to be saved.
7. When people get saved they are commanded to baptize them.
8. When they get baptized; according to scripture, they are then members of that Church.

B. In this Roman Church you now have Jews and Gentiles together in the same congregation...old bigotry is alive and they are not getting along!

1. Paul attempts to deal with this problem first by addressing the Jews in the congregation:

Romans 2:17-29

- 17 Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God,
- 18 And knowest *his* will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law;
- 19 And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,
- 20 An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.
- 21 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?
- 22 Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?
- 23 Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonorest thou God?
- 24 For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.
- 25 For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision.
- 26 Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?

- 27 And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfill the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?
- 28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:
- 29 But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.

2. Paul goes on to address the Jews with this question in:

Romans 3:9-18

- 9 What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;
- 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
- 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.
- 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.
- 13 Their throat *is* an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips:
- 14 Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness:
- 15 Their feet *are* swift to shed blood:
- 16 Destruction and misery *are* in their ways:

17 And the way of peace have they not known:

18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

3. You see, ladies and gentlemen, a sinner is the worst thing there is on earth...**and you are one!**

4. And if you are a sinner then you don't have any business looking down your nose on anybody!

5. That means black, white or brown;
That means rich, poor or middle class;
That means Republican, Democrat or Independent;
That even means effeminate men or masculine women!

6. Our job as believers is to fight our sin, not each other!

7. You are free to hate sin all you want but when it comes to hating, offending and disrespecting fellow sinners who have been bought with the blood of Jesus; that does not belong in the lives and character of God's people and certainly has no place in God's house!

II. The Parties being addressed.

A. In the early chapters Paul is addressing the Jews and in the latter chapters he is addressing the Gentiles in the congregation:

Romans 11:13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

1. When you get to Chapters 9 and 10, the Apostle to the Gentiles is still addressing the same issue he began with.

2. Here Paul points out that the non-Christian Jews have fallen far short of what the saved Gentile Christians within the Church have attained:

3. Romans 9:30 – 10:4

30 What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.

31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

32 Wherefore? Because *they sought it* not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Zion a stumblingstone and rock of offense: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

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

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.

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

4. Let me remind you here from Chapter 1 that Paul is addressing both Jewish and Gentile; already saved, scripturally baptized members of this local Roman congregation.

5. Thus Chapter 10 is not a dissertation on how they might become saved; it is rather a discourse on how they both got saved and now have access to God and can call on the Lord with the promise of an answer.

B. The main point of Chapter 10 is that both Jews and Gentiles have equal access to the Lord, His awesome salvation from sin...and His continuing salvation from the power of sin in our lives.:

1. **Romans 10:12** 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.

2. At first glance you would expect this to be addressed primarily to the Jews [God's chosen people] who were obviously looking down on the Gentiles.

3. There is another side to this: Ancient Rome was literally the sin capitol of the world. Every

kind of debauchery known to man was commonplace in this city.

4. Those Gentiles needed to be reminded; as no doubt do some of you, that if you are willing to believe with your heart; you will receive the righteousness of God which is by faith in Jesus Christ.

5. Once, with your heart you believe unto righteousness, you then can call on the Lord and be saved from your alcoholism.

6. Once, with your heart you believe unto righteousness, you then can call on the Lord and be saved from your drug addiction.

7. Once, with your heart you believe unto righteousness, you then can call on the Lord and be saved from your pornography addiction.

8. Once, with your heart you believe unto righteousness, you then can call on the Lord and be saved from that homosexual bend in your life.

9. Once, with your heart you believe unto righteousness, you can then call on the Lord and be saved from your dishonesty and your gossiping and your laziness and yes, even your gluttony!

10. There is no one too bad to save nor is there any sin too difficult to overcome that the

blood of Jesus and the power of the Word of God cannot handle the job!

III. The Plan being articulated.

A. All of these Roman Church members were saved from their sins by receiving the Righteousness of God by faith.

1. Paul calls it the Word of Faith!
2. **Romans 10:8** 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;
3. He is speaking of the Gospel of which he said in **Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
4. The Gospel message saith Paul that “we”, meaning both he and this Roman Church do preach to the world.
5. Verse 9 states the message:
Romans 10:9 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.
6. Verse 10 explains the message:

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

7. Belief/trust [in the Gospel] with the heart gets you saved from the penalty of your sins.

8. With the mouth:

a. confession follows which is: a statement or acknowledgment [not a supplication or asking].

b. unto = eis *ice*

A primary preposition; *to* or *into* (**indicating the point reached or entered**), **of place, time, or** (figuratively) purpose (result, etc.);

9. Because I am not ashamed, I acknowledge that on a cold Thursday night in February, 1977, I trusted Jesus who died and rose again and He saved me from my sins: I received the righteousness of God by faith.

10. Since then I have called on the Lord many, many times and He has saved me out of all my troubles.

2Timothy 3:10-11

10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered [saved] me.

B. The so-called greatest evangelistic tool of all time is really just a quote from Old Testament prophecy about a day that is still ahead of us.

1. **Joel 2:28-32**

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

30 And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

32 **And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered [saved]:** for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

2. This verse does demonstrate, however, as Paul intended; that the Lord has planned all along that whosoever; Jews and Gentiles alike,

we all have access to God through Jesus Christ!

In Conclusion: Consider these questions:

Do you think you are too bad to be saved?

If you do, you are wrong; Jesus can save you from your sins.

Do you think your besetting sin is too great for the power of God's Word to overcome?

If you do, you are wrong again.

Do you think you are too good a person to need saving? If you do, you are wrong; we

have all sinned and come short of God's glory!

You need Jesus too!

Did you understand the gospel and trust Jesus to save you? Or did you ask Him to

and then wonder if He really did?