

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

SPREADING THE SOUL-SAVING MESSAGE OF JESUS

ROMANS LESSON 9 (Chapter 10)

Introduction by narrator accompanied by a cappella singing:

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. Spreading the soul-saving message of Jesus. And now, Timothy Sparks and Ben Bailey.

Ben Bailey:

“Brethren, My heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved” (Rom. 10:1). I’m Ben Bailey.

Timothy Sparks:

I’m Timothy Sparks. Welcome to our study of the Book of Romans. This message is brought to you by individual members and congregations of the church of Christ. We hope you will visit the church of Christ in your area, and let the Christians there know how much you appreciate their support of this broadcast. We would like to invite you to visit our website at www.thegospelofchrist.com. If you would like to request a DVD or a CD of today’s lesson, send us an e-mail and we will be happy to send it to you at absolutely no expense to you. We’ll even cover the postage. We also have correspondence courses available. We want to help you in any way we possibly can in your study of God’s Word. If you’d like, we’ll also put you in contact with the church of Christ in your area, and they will be happy to study the Bible with you. The church of Christ is a place where the Bible is loved, and where the Gospel is preached. So feel free to let the members of the church of Christ in your community know that you’re watching this program, and that you’d like to further study the Bible.

We now come to Romans 10. In verses 1 and 2, Paul says, “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.” There are many people today in the religious world who have great zeal for God, but it’s not based on a knowledge of God’s Word. Our zeal and enthusiasm must be in keeping with the commandments that God has given us. We need to allow God Himself to direct us by His Word and by His will. Paul had a marvelous evangelistic zeal—marked by enthusiasm. He was so disappointed that the Jews were not willing to ensure that their zeal was in accordance with the Word and will of God. Do you remember Romans 9:1-3 where Paul made it clear that he would be willing to be accursed from Christ if it could mean the salvation of the Jews? Yet they, by and large, were lost. Why? Because they had rejected Jesus Christ!

Ben Bailey:

Paul’s concern is on display in Romans 10:3 when he says, “They, being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.” Basically, Paul says they had utterly failed. In Romans 10:4, Paul speaks about this when he says, “For Christ is the end of the law for right-

eousness to everyone who believes.” Christ is not necessarily finishing the law—He’s not ending the law—in the sense that there is “no more law.” Rather, He is the finality of the law—the fulfillment of God’s ultimate plan. The Jews at the time of the writing of the Book of Romans were trying to find their **own way** to be righteous. Doesn’t that sound a lot like our society today? People are intent on creating their own way of salvation. They are deciding what **they** want to do to be saved. In the end, whatever the Bible says may not really matter. It reminds me of the prophet Jeremiah, who said, “Oh Lord I know, I know the way of man is not in himself it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (10:23). We can’t create our own path to Heaven. Jeremiah said clearly that when we try, we **will** fail! In Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25, the Bible says that “there is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is the way of death.” The Jewish Christians who were trying to make their own way of salvation by the Old Law—a law that had been nailed to the cross—had utterly failed. They failed in such a way that they were no longer righteous, and thus no longer pleasing to God. We today must not try to create our own way to Heaven. We must not follow the writings of men. Instead, we must look solely to the Bible as our guide. What men say when it comes to matters of salvation is frequently not worth hearing. We must hear the Word of God. We must listen to Jesus and the words that He left us so that we can have eternal life. I’m reminded of what Peter said in John 6. Jesus had made some hard statements, and He had spoken about some difficult things. From that point on, some of His disciples decided not to walk with Him any more. Jesus then turned to the rest of the group and asked, “Will you also go away?” Peter responded, “Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (vs. 68). The same is true for us today. **Our** way of salvation is not the right way. From Isaiah 55:9-11 we learn that God’s ways and man’s ways are not the same. God’s ways are much loftier and holier than our ways. So in Romans 10:3-4, Paul shows that people were not going to be saved by the Old Law.

Timothy Sparks:

Paul makes it clear that it is only through the proclamation of the Gospel that people can be saved. Any time we come to a study of the Book of Romans, we need to keep in mind Romans 1:16-17, where Paul says that the Gospel is God’s saving power. The Gospel reveals God’s righteousness. Paul makes it clear that it takes preachers and teachers of the truth of God’s Word in order for people to come to a knowledge of the truth. He started out this discussion by explaining what a great love he had for the Jews. He wanted them to be saved, but their zeal was uninformed. They had a zeal for God, but it was not according to a knowledge of God’s Word. Preachers and teachers of God’s Word can help people come to the knowledge of the truth so they can be saved (1 Tim. 2:4). Do you remember Saul of Tarsus (Acts 22)? If anyone could have been saved by direct intervention of God, surely it would have been Saul. Christ appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus, and told him to go into the city of Damascus, where he would be told what he needed to do. Saul waited in Damascus for three days. He was blind, and he neither ate nor drank. He didn’t have any distractions. He was in a deep state of repentance and prayer. If he had **already** been saved (as many in the religious world today suggest), he surely would have been the most miserable saint this world has ever seen! Yet we learn that Ananias came to Saul and said, “Why are you waiting? Arise...” (vs. 16). Arise and do what? “Be immersed and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” If Saul had already been saved, then why did he need to have his sins washed away? It’s clear that Saul was still in sin, and needed to be baptized into Christ to wash away his sins. As soon as he was baptized into Christ, he immediately went into the synagogues and began to preach Jesus as the resurrected Christ. We

learn a very valuable lesson from Acts 22. You cannot teach what you do not know. You must **know** the Scriptures in order to be able to **teach** them. Another lesson we learn is that you cannot lead where you yourself will not go. If you are unwilling to obey the Gospel, you are not going to be able to lead other people Christ. From Romans 10, we learn that it takes dedicated people to spread the Gospel. We learn from the Book of Titus, for example, that older women can teach younger women, and also can help instruct their children. Each person has a valuable role to play in God's kingdom.

Ben Bailey:

Romans 1:16-17 tells us that the Gospel has the power to save, but what does it mean to "obey the Gospel"? We learn something about that here in Romans 10:9-10. We learn that belief and confession are part of the plan of salvation. Paul tells us that it is with the heart that one believes. With the heart, we believe unto salvation, and with the mouth we confess that Jesus is the Son of God. This is not all God says on these subjects, of course. If we took only bits and pieces from here or there, we would not get the full picture of everything God has said. As we study in the Book of Acts, for example, we see that in every account of conversion, people believe. They heard the Word. They repented. They confessed. They were baptized, and then they lived a life of faithfulness to God. Romans 10:13 (probably one of the best-known Bible verses in our world today) teaches us that, "Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord will be saved." Many people want to think that they have "called on the name of the Lord." They like to think they can say simply, "Lord, Lord," and feel they are saved. Yet, there is much more to it than this.

Timothy Sparks:

Jesus actually addressed this when He said, "Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). In Matthew 7:22, Jesus said, "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'" Verse 23 records, "Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" Previous to these two verses, Jesus had said, "Not everyone who calls upon him as Lord, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven" (vs. 21). In Romans 10:13, Paul is actually referring back to a prophecy that Joel made in the Old Testament. Joel prophesied, "And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (2:32). Peter quoted Joel's prophecy in his sermon in Acts 2 when he said, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (vs. 21). When the people asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (vs. 37), they were asking (in that specific context), "What shall we do to call on the name of the Lord that we might be saved?" In contrast to a lot of religious teaching today, Peter did not say, "All you have to do is accept Jesus Christ into your heart as your personal Lord and Savior." What did Peter tell them? He told them, "Repent and be immersed, everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins" (vs. 38). The way that we "call on the name of the Lord to be saved" is by rendering obedience to the Gospel. We come to believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. We repent of our sins, which includes a change of mind that leads to a change of life. We confess that Jesus is the Son of God. Then, we are baptized into Christ to access His cleansing blood. Baptism is not a meritorious work by which we "earn" our salvation. Rather, it's how we accept the grace and mercy of God. So, when we read passages such as Romans 10:9-10 in which we learn that with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation and with the heart one believes to righteous-

ness, we need to take into consideration what other Bible writers, and even the Lord Himself, had to say in regard to the plan of salvation, and what we must do to be saved. We have to take the whole counsel of God, which is exactly what Paul tried to preach and teach (Acts 20:28).

Ben Bailey:

The idea of “calling on the Lord” seems to carry with it the connotation that we are in distress, and that we are calling out to God for help. It’s as though a person is sinking in quicksand, and they call out for help for someone to throw them a lifeline. If someone does that, will that person reject the help? Hardly! It’s the same type of thing when we “call on the name of the Lord.” We are sinking in the quicksand of sin. God is extending the gift of His salvation. When we call on God’s name, we have to reach out and do whatever God tells us to do to be saved from our sins. “Calling on the name of the Lord” is not simply saying “Lord, Lord.” Rather, as Jesus pointed out in Matthew 7:21, it means that we obey God and do His will. One of the saddest verses in the entire Book of Romans is found in Romans 10:16. Paul says, “But they have not all obeyed the gospel.” What a sad verse. Here, Paul laments the fact (as he did in Romans 9:1-3 and Romans 10:1-4) that not everyone has obeyed the Gospel. Truly, it is so sad that we are living in a world where every day people are dying in a lost condition—dying lost, to spend eternity with the devil in a sinner’s hell. What a sad fact that is. It is our heart’s desire, and our prayer for you, that you won’t be lost. If you’re not a child of God, you need to make that right before it’s everlastingly too late. You need to make that right by submitting to the system of faith found in the Bible. Some might ask, “How do we obtain faith?” The answer is found in the Romans 10:17, where Paul says, “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.” Faith comes by hearing God’s Word. We don’t receive faith in the middle of the night by some special “moving of the Holy Spirit.” We can’t get it by osmosis. We don’t get it in any other way except by reading and understanding the Word of God. This verse in Romans 10:17, which tells us how we obtain faith, says that we must know God’s Word. When we read the Old Testament and see the examples of how that, in every case, God was faithful to His Word, it should help us to have faith in that Word. As we read the New Testament, we then can understand that it is the inspired will of God. Through the centuries, God has faithfully supplied His Word to us. Romans 10 is a great example of what it means to have faith. We must study the Bible, as Paul told Timothy when he said, “Study to show yourself approved unto God” (2 Tim. 2:15). In Proverbs 15:26-28, the Bible says, “The heart of the righteous studies how to answer.” We must be “people of The Book.” It used to be that religious people were known for studying and knowing their Bible. Sadly, that’s not the case anymore. Today, perhaps it could be said of us, as it was in the days of the prophet Hosea, “My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6). We **must** have faith—which brings us full circle to the theme of (Romans 1:16-17). We must have faith, for the Gospel is a system **of faith based on faith that creates faithfulness.**

Timothy Sparks:

As we look at Romans 10:17, which is sandwiched between verses 16 and 18, we learn two valuable lessons. Notice that Paul says, “They have not all obeyed the gospel” (referring to Isaiah 53:1). Not all the Jews had obeyed the Gospel. But, in verse 18, Paul asks, “But have they not all heard?” He then answers his own question when he says, “Yes indeed.” Paul’s point is that while everyone has not **obeyed** the Gospel they have heard the Gospel. This reminds me of Romans 1:8 where Paul said, “I thank God

through Jesus Christ that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.” The Christians in the first century did a tremendous job of taking the Gospel to every person in that day and time. Not everyone obeyed, but at least they **had** heard. Some people might say, “I don’t know if that really means what it’s saying there. I don’t know if everybody really did hear the Gospel.” But Paul says “Yes indeed.” From Colossians 1:6 and 1:23, we learn that the Gospel had been taken “into all the world.” Thus, there are at least three passages in the New Testament which confirm that the Gospel had been taken to the then-known world. The first-century Christians did a wonderful job of taking the Gospel to people. We live in a day of incredible technology, in which we have more means of transportation and communication than anyone has at any time in history. How dedicated and how zealous are **we** in spreading the truth of God’s Word? There are a lot of people who are spreading what they “believe” to be true, but as Paul said, they have a zeal for God that is not according to knowledge. We need the truth of God’s Word communicated today. We don’t need people who are unwilling to study, and who simply want to say, “I have a feeling deep in my heart that I wouldn’t trade for a thousand Bibles.” The Bible is God’s Word. And it is that Word which presents the Gospel that saves us. As the psalmist said, “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul” (Psalm 19:7). So it is today. It is the Word of God—the Law of Christ—that does the convicting and the converting. Nothing else can accomplish that. We need to be concerned with spreading the pure, unadulterated Gospel. We don’t need to know what “everybody else” thinks; we don’t need opinions. What we need is book, chapter, and verse preaching. We need to know what the Lord says, we need a “thus saith the Lord.” As Colossians 3:17 says, “Whatever you do in word or deed, do **all** in the name of the Lord.” We need the authority of God and the authority of Christ behind **everything** we do—in our life, in our teaching, in our preaching, and in our worship. We need to be more committed and concerned with what God has said in the Scriptures. God has told us exactly what He wants us to do. He has given us His law and His will concerning what we do in worship, and He has given us a guide in life—the Bible—that will lead us to our heavenly home.

Ben Bailey:

Paul closes Romans 10 with a very sad quote from Isaiah 65:2. He lamented the fact at the beginning of the chapter that the Jews were ignorant of God’s will, and that while they had a zeal for God, it wasn’t according to a knowledge of God’s Word. Now, he closes this chapter with a quote from the Old Testament where God says, “I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according to their own thoughts.” God was **very** displeased with Israel. He also was **very** displeased with those in the first century who did not accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. You can almost hear the lamentation in God’s voice as He speaks to these people. He is a caring and loving God Who is disappointed with people who will not accept His will. This should remind us that while God is longsuffering, His longsuffering will eventually come to an end. Although God is patient, there **will** come a day of reckoning. We learn from 2 Peter 3:9 that God is a longsuffering God, and that He wants all to repent rather than perish. Yes, God is longsuffering. But there will come a day when His longsuffering will come to an end. Peter stated that, eventually, the Earth and all that is in it will be burned up with a fervent heat (2 Pet. 3:10-12). In light of this, Peter admonished us to live our lives of holiness, and to make our conduct right before God. We must be sure that we are not taking advantage of the gifts of God. We must be careful to obey the Gospel the way God wants us to. Romans 10 is in some ways a sad chapter. God doesn’t want anyone to be lost. He has done all He can to reach out to people in order to save them. God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (1

Tim. 2:4-6). We're told in Hebrews 2:9 that God's own Son, Jesus Christ, "tasted death for every man." Today we need to obey the Gospel while we have the opportunity. In 2 Corinthians 6:2, Paul said, "Now is the day of salvation." Your life could be snuffed out before you have an opportunity to obey the Gospel. You must be willing to believe in Jesus, and to believe in him so much that you are willing to repent of your old ways. You must turn to God in confession of His Son as the risen Savior, and then be baptized into the body of Christ. God set up his church on Earth. The kingdom is here right now. The church of Jesus Christ has always been the plan of God. One day, as 1 Corinthians 15 tells us, He's coming back to receive his own. Are you ready for that great day? Have you lived your life the way that God wants you to? If not, you can do that, beginning today.

Timothy Sparks:

We find from the Book of Romans an excellent lesson for us today. We need to take the Gospel, and incorporate it into our hearts and lives. Then, we need to be the type of people who will valiantly and boldly go wherever we can in this world, teaching and preaching the glorious Gospel of Christ. As we look at Romans 10:13, we see that the way to truly call on the name of the Lord is by believing in Him with all of our hearts, repenting of our sins, confessing that Jesus is the son of God, and then by being baptized into Christ to access His cleansing blood.

We hope you will visit us on our website. We would like to make this lesson, and other Bible study materials, available to you. If you will contact us, we will gladly send you a DVD or CD of this broadcast, or any of our other broadcasts. We also hope you will visit the church of Christ in your area. Tell them that you'd like to study the Bible in more detail. They will be happy to study with you. We hope you'll continue to study with us as we endeavor to discover more of "the unsearchable riches of Christ."

Narrator accompanied by a cappella singing:

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST is brought to you by loving, caring members of the church of Christ. The McLish Avenue church of Christ in Ardmore, Oklahoma, oversees this evangelistic effort. For a free CD or DVD of today's broadcast, please write to:

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST
607 McLish Ave.
Ardmore, OK 73401

You may call **580-223-3289**. Please visit us on the web at www.thegospelofchrist.com. We encourage you to attend the church of Christ, where "the Bible is loved and the Gospel is preached."

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR ROMANS LESSON 9 (CHAPTER 10)

1. In Romans 10:1-2, Paul said, “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.” What did Paul mean by this assessment?
2. According to Romans 9:1-3, how much did Paul love his fellow Jews?
3. What did Paul mean when he wrote in Romans 10:3, “They, being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”
4. In Romans 10:4, Paul said, “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” How is Christ “the end of the law”?
5. Explain the connection between such passages as Proverbs 16:25, Jeremiah 10:23, and Proverbs 14:12.
6. Romans 10:3-4 teaches us that something will not save us. What is that “something”?
7. According to Romans 10:9-10, there is something that plays an important part in man’s salvation. What is it?
8. In Romans 10:13, we read: “Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” How do we call on the name of the Lord?
9. In Romans 10:13, Paul is referring to a specific statement from the Old Testament. Where is that statement found?
10. When Paul says in Romans 10:16 that “they have not all obeyed the Gospel,” to whom is he referring?
11. Explain the statement, “The righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith” (Rom. 1:17).
12. What important point is taught in Colossians 1:6, Romans 1:8, and Colossians 1:23?
13. Explain Isaiah 65:2, “I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according to their own thoughts.”
14. Discuss the importance, within the context of the biblical plan of salvation, of Hebrews 2:9.
15. According to Psalm 19:7, what “converts the soul”?
16. Explain the connection between 2 Timothy 2:15 and Proverbs 15:26-28.
17. The phrase “calling on the name of the Lord” carries a specific connotation. What is it?