

SERMON STUDY SUMMARY

Romans Part 22 - Be Saved!

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INTRODUCTION

The overall theme in Romans is about God's deep desire to bring everyone into relationship with Himself, through the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ! God first *chose* the Jews, Abraham and his descendants, to represent Him – not because they were morally superior or because He loved them more, but because they were to demonstrate, through their way of life, that **HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD!** When Israel failed at this task, God accomplished His kingdom purposes through Christ and His *faithful* followers, the Church.

Two words in our Christian vocabulary are detested by our culture: (1) '**Lost**' – implies weakness, helplessness or hopeless confusion. (2) '**Saved**' makes us uncomfortable when we refuse to admit that people are lost, and when we ignore, reject or replace Christ with counterfeit gods, revealing our lack of faith in Him. However, in the context of Luke 19:10, 'lost' implies **value**, and the NT Scriptures teach – implicitly – that without faith in Christ we are **lost**, bound for eternity in hell, with no one but ourselves to blame.

Both the early Christians, and many folks these days, try picking and choosing the kind of God *they* want to believe in. Some assume that if you really strive to BE and DO good, you are acceptable to God. A few, realizing they aren't perfect and cannot save themselves, admit it honestly. However, most people think they are good and righteous, and therefore acceptable to God. They reach this conclusion by COMPARING their perceived righteousness with those they deem 'the dregs of society', i.e., murderers, drug kingpins, sex traffickers, etc.; the subtle understanding is: if God's perfect righteousness is a 10, these folk would be a 1, and most would say they deserve hell. Additionally, further reflection on people at work, school and their neighborhood, reveal a *morally average* group, designated a 5.

The reasoning follows that they are, therefore, at least a 7.5 on God's scale. Furthermore, when their list of admirable qualities and good deeds are taken into consideration, they reach a score of 8.5. They also attend church, small groups, read the Bible, pray, etc., and conclude that, compared to most other people, they are at 9.5 or 9.7 which, they figure, has GOT to be good enough for God. This widespread thinking permeated the Jews of Paul's day and our culture today. People conclude they don't need Christ's righteousness because their own is sufficient!

God measures our righteousness against His absolute holiness, and it is IMPOSSIBLE to save ourselves, which is why He sent Jesus to live among us. Christ's death and resurrection paid for the sins of the WHOLE WORLD; and His righteousness was transferred to us, making us perfect in God's eyes. When we *repent and accept Christ as our Lord and Savior*, we're saved by *Grace*; but it's OUR choice, and there's hope for the worst sinner!

Our sins are forgiven; we are made righteous/complete in God's sight; the Holy Spirit lives within us; we're sons/daughters in God's eternal family with an inheritance from God, and Jesus gives us power over our flesh, the world and the devil and we can live according to His will.

God wants EVERYONE TO BE SAVED! By surrendering our lives to Christ, He lives through us and we're His missionaries/witnesses to others. We're not called to *convert* others; only God changes hearts, and each person has the free will to choose God. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life; without Him we're lost. Will you choose Him today?

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Tell of a time you got lost, perhaps even WITH the help of SIRI/Google maps!
2. Consider the words 'lost' and 'saved'. Why might some react negatively to these words? How do you feel about using these words as they relate to your life and others?

UP – PURSUE GOD

Read Romans 10:1-15

3. Many Jews try diligently to attain righteousness by keeping the Mosaic law. What is the purpose of the Ten Commandments? What is the sobering reality of "the person who does these things (Moses' law) shall live by them" (Romans 10:5)?
4. What does it mean that "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes" (Romans 10:4 ESV)?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Read Romans 10:9-10. Is it possible to "declare" without "believing" or "believe" without "declaring"? What will it look like for you to live out these verses this week?
6. Have you made attempts to tell others about Jesus recently? If so, what did you do and how did it go? Would you do anything differently next time?

THE WORD (NIV)

Romans 10:1-5

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. ²For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. ³Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

⁵Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them." ⁶But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷"or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." ¹²For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

¹⁴How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

We often compare ourselves to others in order to feel better about ourselves, hoping to elevate ourselves in God's eyes, yet we are as needy of His grace as any. Have you been justifying your behavior and disobedience? Have you been coming to God based on your own merits rather than His grace? Take some time to reflect, repent, and praise God for His love and grace.

This week's writers: Asha Phillips, Elsa Henderson, Jared Harrison and Jorel Quemuel