

## BELIEVE AND BE SAVED

JANUARY 14, 2024

## WORSHIP

In Control, Praise Him  
Forever, Thank you Jesus  
for the Blood, You are the  
Lord, His mercy is more

## WELCOME

What's your favorite movie  
or TV series featuring first  
responders (police, firefigh-  
ters, emergency services) or  
other rescue missions (mili-  
tary, pets, etc.)? What made  
it your favorite show?

## WORD

**ROMANS 10:1-10**  
 (READ THE REST OF THE  
 VERSES UP TO THE END OF  
 THE CHAPTER)

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. <sup>2</sup> For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. <sup>3</sup> For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. <sup>4</sup> For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes. <sup>5</sup> For Moses writes of the righteousness that is based on the Law, that the person who performs them will live by them. <sup>6</sup> But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will go up into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down), <sup>7</sup> or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." <sup>8</sup> But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, <sup>9</sup> that 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; <sup>10</sup> for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Towards the end of WWII, Filipino and American prisoners-of-war (POWs) were going to be executed by their Japanese captors. The US military quickly put together a strategic rescue plan and on January 30, 1945, 516 POWs were successfully rescued! The plan and the resources were from the US military, but the POWs had to willingly go with their rescuers out of captivity.

We are all prisoners of sin; God planned our rescue and sent Jesus to save us. God wants all of us to be saved (**2 Peter 3:9**), yet we also must do our part -- to believe in Jesus.

**1. Trust Not in Self-Righteousness**

How's our level of compassion for people without Christ? Paul has such intensity in compassion towards the Jews that he was willing to go as far of giving up his salvation in exchange for theirs (**vv. 1-3**). This was not just Paul's desire, but something that he prayed for (**Romans 10:1**) because God's sovereignty goes together with man's responsibility. If our salvation were all up to God's sovereignty, then there will be no need for us to pray for people to be saved (**1 Timothy 2:1, 3-4**)!

The Jews were enthusiastic about God, yet they did not have an experiential knowledge of Him (**Romans 10:2-3**). "Knowledge" as used here is gained through first-hand relationship, like that between married couples. The Jews had religion, but no relationship with God.

The righteousness of God is imputed on us, not earned by us; it is a gift from God, by grace. Yet this was rejected by the Jews. People seek to establish their own righteousness through many ways. There are those who believe that "all roads lead to God", others believe they can be "good" without God, etc. However, man's ways to gain salvation apart from Jesus eventually leads to death (**Proverbs 14:12**).

Even following God's law perfectly will not save us (**Romans 10:4-5**)! In fact, the "end" or purpose of the law is not to save us. Rather, it is to show us what God's will is, and our inability to live a perfect and holy life apart from Him. All of us have broken God's commands. None of us can even keep the entire Ten Commandments (**James 2:10**). The end of the law is Jesus Christ, without Him, we cannot be saved.

**2. Trust in Jesus Alone**

Paul quotes Old Testament (**Deuteronomy 30:11-12**) when he asserts that because Jesus has already come, and there is no need for anyone to "ascend into heaven". Nor is there anymore a need for anyone to "descend into the abyss..." to bring Christ up from the dead, because Christ has already risen (**Romans 10:6-7**). Praise God that we serve a risen King, a risen Savior today!

Moses told the Israelites that they should listen to the prophet that God will someday send to them, referring ultimately to Jesus Christ (**Deuteronomy 18:15**). God the Father affirmed this at the transfiguration of Jesus, Moses who appeared with Elijah on that

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mountain at that time, must have said, "I told you so!". Are you listening to Jesus today?

We are to "confess...and believe" so that we may be saved (**Romans 10:8-10**). Confess that Jesus is Lord; "to be in full agreement" that we cannot save ourselves, that only Jesus can save! Confess also means "to celebrate" that Jesus is Lord. Salvation is only found in Him, and we confess these things and celebrate these truths!

The word "believe" in **Matthew 9:27-29** show how two blind men in a desperate situation were crying out for mercy from Jesus. Jesus asked, "do you believe that I am able to do this?" The men confessed they believed that only Jesus could heal them. To believe in God is to profess conviction that God has invited us to a relation commitment with Him and declaring that we have accepted his invitation (J.I. Packer).

To "call" is to make a desperate appeal to Him who alone can save us (**Romans 10:1-13**). Trusting in our own righteousness will cause us the greatest disappointment and the most terrible eternal destiny; we need to trust in Jesus alone.

### 3. Tell Others About Jesus

God used someone to tell us about Jesus, it's now our turn to "pay it forward" by telling others about Him.

Paul makes a very practical statement in **Romans 10:14-15**: Call ← Believe ← Hear ← Preach ← Sent. Paul also quotes from **Isaiah 52:7**, "How beautiful are the feet of those who spread good news". This is not only for "preachers"; all those who share the good news have beautiful feet in God's eyes! It's not just our responsibility to share Christ to others; it's also our privilege! In fact, it is hypocritical for us to pray according to **Matthew 9:36-38** and be unwilling to participate in the answer to the prayer. God's sovereignty and man's responsibility go together!

### 4. Think: How Will You Respond?

How will you respond to the truth about Jesus? How will you respond to His mission to save you? If you are a believer, how will you respond to the challenge that you are sent because people need to hear about Jesus?

At the end of **Romans 10 (vv. 16-21)** Paul quotes **Psalms 19:4** (see also **Romans 1:19-20**), **Deuteronomy 32:21** and **Isaiah 65:1-2** in reference to how God has reached out to the Israelites, and how they have not listened to the message about Jesus, the Messiah.

A practical application for us today (**v.19**) is that, when people look at our lives, would they want to have Jesus too because they see Christ in us, and through us? Would there be sufficient evidence that Christ is in you by the way you live?

We pray that as Jesus stretches out His nail-pierced hands today, you will respond, confess, and believe in Him as your only Lord and Savior. For believers, we're called to stand in the gap. Take the time to listen, to pray, and to share about Jesus Christ to others!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

### 1. Self-Check.

In what or whom are you trusting for your eternal salvation? Explain your answer.

### 2. Setting It Right.

How can you develop greater compassion for those who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior?

### 3. Living It Out.

What will you do this week to tell someone about Jesus?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for at least three of your family members or friends who may be having a difficult time trusting in Jesus alone as Savior and Lord. Take time to listen to their doubts or questions about Jesus. Point them to Bible verses, or other resources that can help remove barriers to faith in Christ. Pray for them and share the gospel with those willing to listen.

## WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- Recovery and restoration for places devastated by recent typhoons and hurricanes.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented.

### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, deacons, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

### IV. CCFE Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Retreat Center and Shelter

### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends.

## MEMORY VERSE

### ROMANS 10:9-10

<sup>9</sup> that 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; <sup>10</sup> for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.