

Salvation in His Name (Romans 10: 9-15)

David Yeh, 17 Sept 2017

Paul was setting the stage for his journey through Rome where he could gain the support of the church there for his mission to the Gentiles in Spain (Rom. 15:24). To do that, he had to deal with two criticisms: First, that his message clashed with the Old Testament; second, that his ministry to the Gentiles erased what the Jews saw as a fundamental distinction between the two groups. So here Paul cites the Old Testament repeatedly (10:11, 13, 15; plus, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21) to show that his message came right out of the Jewish Scriptures. And he shows that the same Lord is Lord of all people and has given one message for all to be saved.

1. Jesus saves (Romans 10:9-10, 13)

Romans 10:9-10 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.

Why is it if we confess that "Jesus is Lord" we would be saved? What is in that name that is powerful enough to save you and me?

Those who are not Christians wonder how Christianity is different to other religions. One big thing is we don't work for our salvation because no one is able to pay for the cost of the wrong things we have done in our life. We simply believe Jesus for what he has done for us, that he has paid for all our sin by taking our penalty of sin on himself, and dying on the cross for us.

We might think is it that easy? Everyone can just say it with our mouth.

When it says in v10 "confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord," we should remember the setting in which Roman Christians lived. Rome considered Caesar to be Lord, and required its citizens and subjects to say, "Caesar is Lord." To proclaim Jesus as Lord or to believe Jesus is God was to invite charges of disloyalty or treason, which could be persecuted, property confiscated, the person and his family could be sold as slave, or even face the penalty of death. If you confess that Jesus is Lord, you really mean business, you really believe what Jesus did for you is worth more than what may become of you, possibly losing everything and your life.

How does this apply today? When we say Jesus is Lord, it means he is the one who has the full control of our body, our mind, our thought, our emotion, our life. We have given our Lordship to him, no longer belong to Satan, or slave to sin. It means that we no longer make decisions for our life but we willingly let our powerful and loving God who can make all things for our good to direct our life.

What is the meaning of the name Jesus? Most dictionaries will translate Jesus' name to be "God is salvation." (Which was apparently more properly translated to Joshua than "Jesus") "God is salvation" is a phrase that may show passive quality to God. It seems like saying to a person, "you need God to be saved." It could seem passive, for both yourself and for God!

Ben Swett has a far more exciting translation of "Jesus." In *Young's Analytic Concordance to the Bible*. It says *Joshua means "Yah saves."*

Joshua = Yahshua = Yah + shuah. Yah is short for Yahweh, and shuah is from yeshuah which means "to save, save alive, rescue."

In other words, may be the **more appropriate translation for Jesus' name is "God saves." Or "God rescues"**. That changes the implication. **To believe in Jesus' name therefore becomes to believe that God actively cares about and actively goes about rescuing lost souls.**

As the bible says **in Luke 15:4 (NIV)** ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?"

We are that lost sheep gone in our own ways, and living in sin. But he actively came to seek us and save us. He is the one who came to rescue us.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Again we see that it was God who actively came to reconcile with us, the sinful people.

Dear friends, there is no distance too far that Jesus can't find you, there is no sin too great that Jesus can't forgive. No matter how far you are away from God he sees your struggle, he sees your pain, he sees your loneliness, he sees your hopelessness in life. Call on the name of Jesus he will save you. Proclaim Jesus is Lord! "God saves" is Lord of your pain, "God rescues" is Lord of your financial difficulty, Lord of your health, Lord of your relationship, Lord of your Job, Lord of your visa.

E.g. When I was little I used to have few dreams of me falling into the dark or being crushed by some dark evil being, even when I just became a Christian. But I was told when I have dream like that, I could call out "Jesus save me" and the evil being will flee from me. One night it happened again I struggled to open my mouth but then I called out "Jesus save me!" Suddenly the evil being that suppressed me left immediately and I woke up. Few days later it happened again and I called out "Jesus save me" and it left me. After that time, I never had this kind of experience again.

Romans 10:13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

There is power in his name.

Philippians 2:10-11¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Let all your problems bow before the name of Jesus, let all your enemy submit before the name of Jesus, Let Jesus be in full control of your life.

If you believe that God's power is able to raise Jesus from death, which means God over came the greatest power of the Devil, Jesus' name is able to save you, if you are living in sin, Jesus can save you. If you have fear of death, Jesus can save you, he can give you eternal life.

2. We are all sinners that need his salvation (Romans 10:11-12, 13)

¹¹ As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."^[a] ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."^[b]

"Anyone, or everyone" occurs in verses 11 & 13 and "no difference" in verse 12 is like reflecting on Romans 3:22b-23 where Paul wrote, "22 ...There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

All people are guilty before God and headed for death and judgment. Whatever the colour of our skin is, underneath our skin our blood is all same red, we are all descendant of sinful ancestor, we have been born into sinful nature. We do wrong things and think "As long as people don't see it, it is ok." We think, "I can be selfish as long as it meets my need."

E.g. Joke of three men in the desert. An Englishman, an American and an Irishman were lost in Sahara Desert for a long time, they were dying of thirst and hunger. They found a Lantern and rubbed on it. A Genie came out and said, "Because you have let me out, each of you can ask for a request and I will grant it for you." So, the Englishman thinks, "I missed my family for so long and wish I can be back with my family having lovely meal," and the request was granted. Then the American thinks, "I am dying with thirst here, I wish I was at the beach in Hawaii lying on the chair and drinking cold coke," and the request was granted. Then the Irishman's turn. He realised all his mates are gone and start to feel very lonely alone in the desert. So he said, "I wish those two friends of mine would come back to keep me company." And the request was granted.

We are all sinners. In some way or the other, what we do quite often hurts others and ourselves. We could feel bitter toward someone, have bad thoughts, adulterous thoughts, jealousy, pride, etc., we can't get out of bad things that we do. Because of our sin we are dead spiritually, that is, we can't relate to God and less degree of godly conscience, and someday we will die physically and spend our eternity with pain in hell.

That's the bad news. But here Paul's 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. Whether you are White Kiwi or European or Chinese or Japanese we all can come to receive his salvation and abundant goodness in life.

V11 "never be put to shame." This does not refer to psychological shame, but rather not being put to shame with a guilty verdict at the judgment. It means that at the judgment, God will vindicate the one who believes in Jesus. So we no longer need to bear the guilty feeling or shame from our sin.

Let's face it, we all have more than a closet full of secret reasons to be put to shame at the judgment. Have you ever thought about what it would be like if your every thought was automatically broadcast out loud without you being able to control it? Even if you had the thought in private, it automatically went on your Facebook page, which was open for everyone to see. We'd all die of embarrassment! But, of course, the God before whom all things are open and laid bare (Hebrews 4:13) knows our every thought!

But 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, white Kiwi or Islanders, Chinese or Japanese, European or Asian, Middle Eastern or African, because the same Lord is Lord of all.

3. Let us share the name of salvation

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!"

I have an announcement to make. The good news: you've just inherited \$10 million from a distant relative that you haven't seen in many years! 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.

We have the good news that can save people's life but unless they have the opportunity to hear the good news, they can't ask God to save them. If we truly appreciate what God has done for us, we would want to let others know what he has done for us.

E.g. A black slave called John was serving in a boat that ran on the Mississippi river during the black slavery period in USA. One-day John fell into the river while he was working on the deck. John was taking water into his lungs and drowning. The white captain of the boat saw this, stopped the boat, jumped into the river and rescued him. Later John was assigned to another boat working on the same river. Every time the boat that the captain who saved him would pass his boat, he would shout out and say, "He is the captain that saved me, he is the captain that saved me." He wanted the people on his boat to know the person who saved his life.

Jesus is the captain that saved us, do you really appreciate what Jesus has done for you? Would you want others to know the person who changed your life?

You might think, but I don't feel like sharing it with someone, I feel embarrassed. Now, imagine if Jesus, just before the cross, went to the garden and thought; I hate this feeling, I don't feel like doing this, therefore I will base my decision upon what I feel. If that had happened, we'd all be hopelessly doomed to hell. The good news of course is that Jesus resisted and fought back His feelings and even though He prayed three times to have the cup removed, He was more interested in doing the will of the Father than what He felt like doing... thankfully. Jesus displayed His love by willingly going to the cross and dying for sinners and those of us whom were still His enemies and desperately wicked (Rom 5:8, 10).

So we must preach that love, not dependent upon feelings and emotions because feelings are one of the shallowest and most unreliable of all human emotions. Instead we must emphasize that love is a choice more than a feeling because feelings are subjective while love is objectively displayed in actions. So let us walk out from our comfort zone and share the good news actively. Let us remember it was God who took the initiative for us to be saved.

Remember what I said in the earlier part of the sermon on the meaning of Jesus' name. Not just "God is salvation" a statement that shows God can save, but as "God saves" or "God rescues," then you can believe God is actively loving and caring; you can believe God wants to rescue lost souls; and you'll likely be empowered and inspired to help God in this task.

With all those things combined, you are more likely to become part of God's network, kingdom, family of those who care about others and actively seek out and rescue the lost. You would also be more able to see God's actions in even our murky world of pain and strife. And, if you have deep faith in the good-will of God, you would become more like God and Jesus, someone who dares to care and rescue.