

The Source Of Righteousness – Romans 10:1-13

Bible Study ~ 9/7/16
Grace Church of Lockeford

In context Paul is discussing his desire for the nation of Israel to come to Christ. In the midst of his eloquent arguments Paul presents a very important truth. As we continue examining the blessings we have in Christ we will learn how we are blessed that the source of righteousness is not ourselves, but God.

1. The Source Of Righteousness Must Be Recognized vv. 1-4

In *v. 1* Paul boldly, clearly, and blatantly states his desire for the nation of Israel. This is his most deep seated longing. More than his desire, this is his prayer. This is the nation that Paul is a part of, the nation from whom Christ Himself arose. Paul prays to God that they would be saved. But *v. 2* reveals that there is a problem with the Israelite nation. They have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. This is a problem that is faced today as well. People want to serve God and talk about God but don't want to do the work necessary to know God! To read and study His Word. The Israelite nation is zealous, but ignorant. Paul expresses the source of their ignorance in *v. 3*. They are ignorant of God's righteousness. Not that they are ignorant that God is righteous. They are ignorant of how that righteousness is credited to our account when we believe. Instead, they are attempting to establish their own righteousness. In doing so they have failed to submit themselves to the righteousness of God! This is where we find most people today. They want to establish their own righteousness. The belief is that eventually we can be "good enough". But trying to be good enough leaves us far away from Christ. They have not trusted in Christ that His righteousness might be credited to their account. They need to know what *v. 4* reveals about Christ. The righteousness that the Israelite nation is seeking to establish through the law cannot be found there. Righteousness comes through Christ! Christ is the end, the goal of all those seeking righteousness through the Law. And the righteousness of Christ only comes when we have believed in Him. So the source of righteousness is Christ. It is not our ability or our goodness. This is a huge blessing because we don't have any goodness or ability! **Paul goes on to present that...**

2. The Source Of Righteousness Must Be Received By Faith vv. 5-10

Salvation is not a transaction; it is a gift. Paul demonstrates that clearly in several ways. *V. 5* gives us the first of four OT quotes in this section. All from the Law and Moses. Yet they are not necessarily direct quotes, they are more like paraphrases. First quoted is *Leviticus 18:5*. Paul is demonstrating that the Law the Jews are following cannot bring righteousness. The point of the Leviticus quote is that you would have to perfectly keep the Law in order to be made righteous by it. Paul contrasts righteousness coming by works with righteousness coming by faith in *v. 6. Deuteronomy 30:12*. Remember that the topic here is the salvation of Israel. The nation of Israel does not believe Jesus is the Messiah. Therefore, they believe that someone still needs to, in effect, go up and bring Christ down. They believed this would be accomplished through their strict adherence to the Law. Somehow their obedience would hasten the coming of Christ. This is something that is beyond human capability. Plus, it is a denial of Christ and therefore cannot result in the righteousness necessary to have a right standing before God. Paul gives another common Jewish objection in *v. 7*. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection. So when Paul talked about Christ they mockingly called him a dead Christ. This is essentially saying that the Messiah is dead and needs to be resurrected.¹ Both of these attitudes deny Christ and therefore miss true righteousness because they do not exhibit faith. Paul presents the alternative, the truth that must be embraced in *v. 8. Deuteronomy 30:14*. The word is near you, Paul says that the word spoken of in Deuteronomy is the word of faith that he and the other believers are preaching. He explains exactly what that word of faith is in *v. 9*. Paul is very specific here. You must confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead. This answers both arguments from *vv. 6-7*. Jesus is the Messiah! We are not waiting for another Christ from heaven. He was raised from the dead, He is not still in the realm of the dead! When you believe the right thing and confess, declare or

¹ Zane C. Hodges, *Romans: Deliverance from Wrath*, ed. Robert N. Wilkin (Corinth, TX: Grace Evangelical Society, 2013), 297.

acknowledge, you are saved. You are delivered from the penalty of sin and given eternal life! Paul clarifies the necessity of these things even further in [v. 10](#). You believe with the heart. This is the center of the being, the seat of thought, feeling, emotion, conscience, and will. Belief, faith is what grants to us the righteousness that the Law can never offer! Once we have received life we are to confess. To verbally and openly proclaim Christ. This is how we are saved. Faith is what is required. Faith that Jesus is the Christ and that He is alive. Faith that He paid the penalty for sin. When we have that faith, we are saved! Again, it is not a transaction but a gift received by faith! Talk about blessing! We do nothing to earn the greatest blessing that exists. **Paul final declaration here is that...**

3. The Source Of Righteousness Must Be Unrestricted vv. 11-13

This is not a truth for the elite. Something that exists only for the initiated or for a select group of people. This is for all people of all time! In [v. 11](#) Paul quotes *Isaiah 28:16*. Whoever believes on the Messiah, on Jesus the Christ, will not be put to shame. The implication is clear. Those who do not believe will be put to shame! Shame is the Greek word κατασχύνω *kataischynō put to shame; humiliate. To Be dishonored (state) – to be or become characterized by shame, dishonor, and a lack of respect.*

What is also clear is who the invitation includes. Whoever! Anyone who believes! Paul explains this inclusion in [v. 12](#). There is no distinction between the Jew and Gentile. The Israelite does not have a special claim in salvation. The Lord is rich to all who call upon Him! Neither the Jew nor Gentile is especially favored of God in this dispensation. All are saved by grace through faith. Just as the Lord is over all He is also rich to all who call on Him. Rich here is not a reference to material wealth but to an abundance of righteousness. God's abundant righteousness is given to all who call upon Him. In [v. 13](#) Paul gives a final quote from *Joel 2:32*. This illustrates what he has been talking about. From the OT forward all who call on the Lord are saved. The gospel is open to all! It is not limited! You don't have to have a particular ethnic background or language or anything else! Jesus is Lord of all and as He is Lord of all the offer of salvation is open to all who call upon Him! This is blessing indeed! We don't have to have a certain pedigree. We don't need to prove our lineage. All that is required is simple faith.

CHALLENGE: Do not rely on your own righteousness. Rest in the righteousness of Christ.