

A Message of Breakthrough
Salvation Comes By Hearing and Believing
Blueprint for Breakthrough Series – Part 18
Romans 10:1-21
July 18-19, 2026

Introduction

- How did you hear the gospel? Who told you? – **another person.**
- Why are we content keeping it to ourselves?
- The most powerful combo = sharing the gospel with a life to back it up.

The gospel must be PREACHED and BELIEVED

- Last Week – **God's sovereignty and absolute** power to dictate how life goes.
- This Week – continuing **why the majority of Israel remained unsaved and rejecting the gospel.**
 - The big subject at hand = **righteousness** – 'in conformity with all that God demands.' goodness, purity, justice, etc. God's definition of perfection.
 - The Law brought it up – the idea that God had expectations on His people (His creation) was highlighted when God gave 'the law' to Moses on Mt. Sinai.
 - The premise of the law – **be obedient to the best of their ability.** Obedience to the law was considered the primary way to honor God and be righteous.
 - A dangerous error – **guessing the purpose of the Law.** what God wanted was morally pure people and that external adherence to codes and rules would make them that.
 - A helpful reminder (**read the OT**)

Lesson

- Misplaced Righteousness
 - Paul challenges the Jews for ignoring God's offer
 - **Romans 10:1-4** - "*Brothers [and sisters], my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*"
 - my heart's desire and prayer = they may be saved. – **Paul desperately wants all Jews to be saved.**
 - Zeal without knowledge - **If anyone that can make this argument it's Paul. What they are missing here is Jesus.**
 - Intense people on this planet – **all or nothing.**
 - They were ignorant about God's righteousness, looked to make their own instead of His - **They stopped listening to God at some point who**

was leading them to the Messiah He provided. And ultimately they lost out on the righteousness that God was trying to give them.

- For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes - in the past people were 'saved' by engaging with the law by faith. The way to righteousness was from the law and not it converted to faith in Jesus Christ.
 - The shift in 'law' – fundamental premises of Christianity is that there is a quantum shift in how mankind (including Israel) can and must engage with their Creator/God, since Jesus Christ came the first time. In the past = proper obedience was demonstration of faith (God always wanted hearts). But once Jesus Christ came, died, and rose again, there was a paradigm shift. Jesus, brought to completion the era of righteousness through the law, since He did it perfectly, and paid the penalties for those who violated it, completely on the cross. The law then was complete and done. The new era began. Now the portal is acknowledgment and surrender to let Jesus save us. Why? Because He can import HIS PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS to us. It's Him or nothing. Obedience to the law was replaced with faith in Jesus Christ. It was God bypassing the law process and going direct with mankind through His Son. What the law did in a shadowy way, the Gospel does in a blatant way.
 - The massive open door – Prior to the cross, Gentiles had quite the hurdle to engage with God. = needed to go through the Jewish people who didn't really like them But, once Jesus Christ fulfilled the law and completed it and set it aside, thus creating a direct FAITH approach, the Gentiles didn't need to go through the Jews anymore. They could go direct and that was a MASSIVE OPEN DOOR. The whole world suddenly could bypass Judaism.
- Hijacking the Messiah
 - The difference between righteousness from God and from self
 - Romans 10:5-7- *"For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. ⁶ But the righteousness based on faith says [Dt 4:6], "Do not say in your heart, [Dt 30:12] 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)."*
 - Moses was clear about the law and righteousness – but again, it was the faith that someone brought to the law that was the key to accessing God's mercy and grace of salvation. It was not the rules making someone perfect, but the rules revealing a heart that loved God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength.
 - But faith portal to righteousness says - Watch your attitude, 'don't let yourself believe...'

- You have to go get it up in heaven or descend to the abyss - 1.) God doesn't make it too hard to get saved; 2.) It's not about a human being doing a herculean effort themselves.
- Faith & Testimony
 - The power of belief and confession
 - Romans 10:8-10- *"But what does it say? [Dt 30:14] 'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."*
 - But what does it say? – What does God say about getting saved?
 - "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim) – salvation is near because God brought it near.
 - because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord – confession = you own what you believe. held accountable to that belief.
 - Is confession a requirement of salvation? – No.
 - Jesus is Lord – Jesus is my master now. surrendering and submitting that He is God.
 - and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, - The deeper part of this double action (confess & believe) is the belief. Jesus said that there were only two commandments in the new covenant: 1.) believe in the One God sent: Jesus Christ; 2.) Love God and people. The belief that God raised Jesus from the dead is not a fact-check on a test, it's a meaningful reality that we must believe. Jesus Christ cannot be God and cannot be our savior if He did not raise from the dead. So, to believe that He is Savior means that you believe He rose.
 - you will be saved. – Saved from what? From the consequence of our sin which is eternal death and eternal separation from God.
 - For with the heart one believes and is justified, - Our beliefs alter how we walk through our reality. It shapes who we are. When we believe in Jesus Christ and put Him as center, God can release His blessing and we are made right in His eyes (justified).
 - and with the mouth one confesses and is saved – it's truly taken to heart.
- One God for All
 - Jesus is Lord of all and saves all
 - Romans 10:11-13- *"For the Scripture says [Isa 28:16], 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.' ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For [Joel 2:32] 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"*

- For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." – **defended at the judgment: EVERYONE who believes.**
 - No difference between Jew or Greek = 1 LORD of all. **same doorway of the gospel of Jesus Christ.**
 - For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved - **Everyone who cries out for salvation from Jesus Christ will be saved if they mean it deeply in their heart and surrender to Him.**
- Hark the Hareld's Sing
 - The power and beauty of evangelism
 - *Romans 10:14-15- "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, [Isa 52:7] "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"*
 - How can people know? **Paul is going to make a double argument with a chain of ideas: 1.) this stuff has happened and now people are accountable for it; 2.) All Christians need to do this stuff more so more can be saved.**
 - 1.) hear about Him to believe in Him.
 - 2.) someone needs to tell them.
 - 3.) people are sent with the gospel message.
 - Words of Life
 - The Word helps to save
 - *Romans 10:16-18 - "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, [53:1] "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. ¹⁸ But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for [Ps 19:4] "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."*
 - But they have not all obeyed the gospel – **when talking to and about the Jews, Paul talks about belief/faith as synonymous with obedience since they know better. They have had the inside scoop the whole time. Unlike the world at large, they have known God. Now it's a matter of obedience to what they SHOULD know.**
 - But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have – **Yes, they have.**
 - Who Said What?
 - Paul embarrasses the Jews by prophecies of pagan nations response
 - *Romans 10:19-21- "But I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, [Dt 32:21] "I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry." ²⁰ Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, [Isa 65:1] "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to*

those who did not ask for me.”²¹ But of Israel he says, [Isa 65:2] “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.””

- But I ask, did Israel not understand? – most Jews were not saved. How is this possible if they have heard the same gospel as the rest of the Church.
- First Moses says, “I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.” – quote of Dt 32:21 – it’s a part of Moses’ song about how gracious God is and how rebellious Israel was – provoking them by the Gentiles being included.
- Then Isaiah said, “I have been found by those who did not seek me” – Gentiles weren’t even following the law and pursuing me in a religious sense. Their culture was devoid of any solid God-talk and yet here they are getting saved in droves. God sought them out before they knew to ask Him.
- But of Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.” – no matter how much God pursued Israel (and He pursued them first) they were rebellious and didn’t want to hear it.

Conclusion

- It’s not just information, it’s engagement. This is not a story, it’s real life.
- God has not made it too difficult. The only difficult things for us is to get over ourselves and surrender to the Lord.
- Who needs to do that today?