

The Message
May 9, 2021

How many of us have been searching for trustworthy information? Where or who do you turn to?

News sources	Your friends
Wikipedia	Your neighbors
Encyclopedias	The owner's manual
Your spouse	The Internet

When do we turn to the Bible! Ultimately, the only One we can trust is God.

- Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life ..."
- Jesus saves those who trust in Him.

Romans 10:8b-10 (NIV) "that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: 9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

The Jews were devoted to the law, so many didn't believe that God bestowed righteousness through faith. There is no way we can live perfect lives and be without sin. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can have faith and receive God's grace. The only way to God is through salvation and not the law.

Paul longed for other Jews to know Jesus as he did – as Savior and as the fulfillment of the law. That would require them to accept Christ as the Messiah by faith. Faith provides hope because God has provided the way. We have free will to choose or reject God's offer of salvation through Christ. His way to salvation is provided for anyone who is willing to believe. This is "The Message of Faith" that Paul taught after his conversion.

What were the two key steps that we must take to receive God's gift of salvation?

- Confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord." Acknowledge that Jesus is God. This would be difficult for the Jew since they crucified Him for claiming to be equal with God.
- Believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead. This distinguishes Jesus from all other false saviors.

What does the dual response of "believe" and "confess" indicate about salvation?

- The one who believes with the heart will inherit the righteousness of Christ.
- Justification happens at the moment of salvation. You are placed in a right relationship before God. You are exchanging human sinfulness for the righteousness of Christ.

What hinders people today from believing Jesus Christ is the Lord and Savior of the world?

- they don't see a need for God in their life, "I'm a good person"
- they were not raised to go to church, so they don't know His Word
- don't want to change their way of life
- requirements to please God are too simplistic ... "have faith and believe"
- others reject outright the concept of Jesus having been raised from the dead
- don't believe there is a Heaven or Hell

How would someone know that we confess Jesus as Lord?

- they see our "works" – they will be the *result* of our faith, our belief
- Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV) *By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*"
- we will be motivated by Christ's love to minister to others around us
- they will see the Fruits of the Spirit

Romans 10:11-13 (NIV) As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 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."

Paul always relied on what the scriptures said. God's Word was and still is the ultimate truth.

According to these verses, who does God *desire* to be saved?

- anyone who trust in Him
- both Jews and Gentiles
- all people
- all who call on the Name of the Lord

If God desires everyone to be saved, then what responsibility does that place on the individual in need of salvation?

- must put our trust in Him
- must "call on the Name of the Lord"
- as noted in the previous passage, confess Jesus as Lord and believe in His resurrection
- God has offered His *gift* of salvation ... we must respond and *receive* it by faith

How can we see everyone as the same?

- see them as God sees them
- ask God to give us a love and concern for their souls
- make an effort to learn about them, learn to appreciate some of their culture
- get to know someone of another culture
- if you are not sure of their spiritual condition, get to know them well enough to share the Gospel message with them

Romans 10:14-17 (NIV) How, 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? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" 16 But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" 17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

List the sequence of dependencies for someone to end up believing in Christ.

- people must be *sent* to preach
- this is how someone *hears* the Gospel message
- once they hear, then they can *believe that Jesus is their Savior*

What happens when a link of the chain is missing?

- the unbeliever stays in his/her sinful state
- all of us have some part in that chain
- God's part is to do the convicting
- Our part is the communicating

Who is responsible at each stage of this sequence?

- Believe	- the lost person
- Hear, listen	- the lost person
- Preach	- Christians – includes believers, not just pastors and missionaries
- Sent	- the church
- Pray	- all believers

What factors in this passage help to develop a sense of urgency for telling others about Jesus?

- the *only* way they will believe in Jesus is to hear about Him
- someone must do the telling
- Jesus has commissioned *the believers* to do the telling

What are some ways you can be involved in *sending* the gospel to other places?

- pray for believers who feel the calling to “go”
- give materially and financially to missions
- be involved in the Operation Christmas Child ministry of Samaritan’s Purse ... pack shoeboxes for children, participate in processing centers

Application

Reflect.

- Reflect on those who contributed to your salvation and consider what they did that led you to accept the good news they shared?
- List ways you can do something similar for others.

Write.

- Write a note or call the individuals who played a role in your coming to faith in Christ.
- Thank them for their love and obedience in sharing the gospel with you.

Share.

- Prayerfully consider those whom God has placed in your path.
- Look for opportunities to tell them the message of Christ.
- Let God empower you to be an instrument that brings others to a saving knowledge of Him.