

Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation

“Do I Really Need to Be Saved?”

Romans 9:30 – 10:4

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Sept. 20, 2015

The word ‘saved’ can make people feel uncomfortable because it immediately infers that there are some people who are lost, but many don’t think they’re lost.

- Should we still use the word ‘saved’?

That word gets used all over the place in the Bible! If God uses that word, so should we. In fact the word ‘saved’ is used 273x in the Bible and 9 of those are found in the book of Romans.

See how Paul uses the word ‘saved’ in **Romans 9:30 – 10:4**.

Paul starts this section with a familiar and characteristic rhetorical question, “What shall we say then?” This is a critical turning point and response to what he’s been trying to drive home to them.

Paul is on high alert because he senses that they are completely misunderstanding something critical about what God has done for us in His Son – Jesus Christ!

In Romans 9, Paul showed us that God is the potter and we are the clay. God can do as He pleases with what He creates – including us! We’re brought into the shadows of the mysterious doctrine of God’s sovereign election that we can’t fully grasp. It humbles us and leaves us with some unanswered questions.

Then in Romans 10, Paul presents us with the other side of the coin: *human responsibility*. The Word of God teaches both God’s sovereign electing love and man’s responsibility.

Paul teaches BOTH the sovereignty of God and our responsibility to either receive or reject the Good News of the Gospel.

- Why do so many people reject this free offer of salvation in Christ Jesus?

I. You Might Not Think You *Need* to be Saved

The Jews in Paul’s day didn’t think they needed to be saved either. It’s a human problem!

One of our biggest problems is we just don’t think we’re that bad! And so unless you’re convinced of your lost and hopeless condition without Christ you’re not going to be very interested in the remedy.

It's not that the Jews didn't think there were people that desperately needed God's help. It never crossed their minds that they needed God's grace and salvation!

And Paul's been trying to help them understand their desperate need for a Savior! Look at **Romans 3:9-12, 19**. In **John 8:30-36** you see an encounter between Jesus and the religious leaders! And it's only one of many places where it's clear that when Jesus tried to offer the Gospel to them the Jews didn't even have a category for thinking of themselves as sinners who need to be saved.

- What about you today? Do you know you're a sinner that needs to be saved?

You better! God's already read your chart and diagnosed you with a terminal disease called sin that can only be remedied by the righteousness of His Son Jesus Christ.

“Because grace is so incomprehensible to us, we bootleg conditions so we won't look so bad and God's offer won't seem so counterintuitive. By the time we're done qualifying the gospel, we're no longer unworthy and powerless. We're misguided souls. We're no longer wretches. And grace is longer grace.” ***The Grace & Truth Paradox***, Randy Alcorn, P. 31 & 35

If we're nothing more than morally neutral 'souls,' do you see what that does? It guts grace.

The worst thing we can teach people is that they're good without Jesus. The fact is, God doesn't offer grace to good people any more than doctors offer lifesaving surgery to healthy people. ***The Grace & Truth Paradox***, Randy Alcorn, P. 31 & 35

We're all terminally ill and dying to sin, but we fight tenaciously to deny it and delay it as long as possible. But no matter how much we deny or delay, the day will come when we will die.

Romans 5:12 “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”

Many of us are guilty of the blinding sin of the inability to see ourselves as God sees us. We have a bad habit of comparing ourselves favorably with those around us.

Luke 18:9-14- Don't miss the point of Jesus' story- until you're ready to accept the diagnosis and role of 'sinner' and cry out to God for mercy you're not a candidate for salvation!

The Bible strips us of all our own righteousness and declares us guilty sinners so that we'll look up to the cross and Christ!

"Knowing God without knowing our own wretchedness makes for pride. Knowing our own wretchedness without knowing God makes for despair. Knowing Jesus Christ strikes the balance because he shows us both God and our own wretchedness." *Blaise Pascal*

The Bible makes an astounding proclamation that Paul has repeated throughout his letter to the Romans – that God sent His Son to save SINNERS, not people who already think they're pretty good.

The Gospel is not a BOOSTER shot for people who are already pretty good. The Gospel is a CPR, kick-in-the-head to people who were DEAD in their trespasses and sins.

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Even Sigmund Freud, who had many accolades for pioneering the concept of psychoanalysis, realized his aims for setting people free by understanding themselves better fell short.

"That psychoanalysis has not made the analysts themselves better, nobler, or of stronger character remains a disappointment for me. Perhaps I was wrong to expect it." ***The Question of God***, Dr. Armand M. Nicholi, Jr., P. 63 & 64

Unhappiness, depression, anxiety and meaninglessness are still pandemic in our society.

A purpose-drive life that has peace with yourself and other people starts with having peace with the God of the universe- and that only comes through Jesus Christ!

Romans 5:1 "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"