

# **Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation**

## **52-“Your Self-Righteous Pride Gets in Your Way”**

### **Romans 9:30 – 10:4**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Oct. 4, 2015*

Reasons people so often reject the free offer of salvation that’s found in Jesus Christ:

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

#### **II. You Might Already Be Caught Up In A Flurry of Religious Activities**

We can be zealous for the things of God and find ourselves thinking things like, “I’m on it. I’m going hard after my list.” When it’s all focused on what **I’M** trying to do FOR God, we’re not focused on what God’s already done FOR us.

Genuine Christianity – with the Gospel at the heart of it – is always spelled ‘D-O-N-E’ because it’s focused entirely outside of ourselves on what God has already done for us in His Son Jesus Christ!

#### **III. You Might Not Be Willing to Swallow Your Self-Righteous Pride**

- What is one of the biggest hurdles we’ve got to get across if we’re ever going to be able to accept the free offer of eternal life in Jesus Christ? What is the sin beneath the sin that is so ingrained in every one of us?

It’s **pride!**

The Gospel is simple enough for a child to understand, but it’s not easy because it cuts the feet out from under our biggest sin, which is pride!

You can’t embrace the Gospel without a total death to pride and your own self-righteousness that just screams, ‘I can’t be that bad. There must be something for me to do. I can’t just be helpless and cry out to Him for mercy.’

Paul hit this whole issue of pride and self-righteousness head on because he knew that that was what was getting in the way of the Jews.

**Romans 10:3-4** "For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness [literally: the righteousness that comes from God], and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

And see what God says about our righteousness:

**Isaiah 64:6** “ All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.”

Our own righteousness and what we could come up with is nothing more than filthy rags that could never cover us, but will simply defile us more!

Notice the word 'ignorant' in **Rom. 10:3**:

**Romans 10:3** "For they being ignorant of..."

The Jews, just like people today, were ignorant and resistant towards God's righteousness!

Establishing your own righteousness could be as simple as trusting in the family you were born into, the church you grew up in, the commandments you think you've not yet broken, the people you think you're better than, or the church traditions and practices that you've obediently walked through.

Whatever it is you're trusting in that's keeping you from submitting to the righteousness of God – you need to understand this: Your very soul's at stake. And here's why: You cannot **SUBMIT** to the righteousness of God while at the same time seeking to **ESTABLISH** your own righteousness. The two are mutually exclusive. One rules out the other.

People who are busy trying to establish their own righteousness cannot stop, get down on their knees, lift their hands and say, "God give me what I could never come up with on my own - **YOUR** righteousness! Give me Yours that is found in your son, Jesus Christ!"

- How do you get the righteousness of Christ?
- How does HIS righteousness become your righteousness?

**Romans 3:19-22** "Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed... even the righteousness of God which is **through faith** in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe..."

**Philippians 3:3-9** "For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith"

V. 9 answers 2 big Questions:

- Where do you get it? **FROM** God
- How do you get it? **BY** faith

Get right with God through faith in Jesus Christ as your righteousness. Settle it once for all. You'll never be good enough to provide a righteousness of your own that God will accept as the ground of your justification.

Either Christ is your righteousness or you're still lost and on your way to hell. Those are the two options. Nothing in between.

To those of you who've put your trust in Christ and know that it's the only basis for being made right with Go, do you still wrestle with doubts and fears from time to time?

You're not the only one because Satan, our adversary, wants to rob us of that confidence more than anything else! And he tries to get us to live by feelings instead of faith. We say...

- Do I **feel** righteous before God?
- Do I **feel** forgiven?

**John Bunyan**, the author of *Pilgrim's Progress*, said he overcame his doubts by focusing on Christ, his Advocate in heaven.

"If you slip; if you do more than stumble but in fact fall flat on your face, then you can be certain that pretty soon your enemy will submit a bill to heaven for your failure. Don't worry. Go immediately to Christ as your advocate, and He will plead for you before God your judge against the devil your adversary. Don't worry about how bad your failure was; instead, let it move you to humility and the realization of your own weakness, but then stop thinking about it, for Christ will use it for glory. In fact, the angels will shout out loud to see Him prove your innocence. After all, this is Christ's job: He is our advocate, and He takes joy in winning His people's freedom from Satan's charges." --The Riches of Bunyan, Barbour Publishing, p. 117

That's good news! The angels shout out loud to see Christ prove your innocence! Can you imagine that?

Christ takes joy in defending YOU against Satan's charges because it's his job and it's his glory!