

LESSON 21 10:5-13

In the verses leading up to today's text, there is almost a sorrowful tone about the Jews who have misunderstood the coming of Jesus as the Christ and have cast themselves into the fervent keeping of the Law. This is detrimental, for Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who *believes*. Faith in Christ is missed by the Jews because of their faith in the keeping of the Law. But why would they trip over Christ and allege themselves to The Law? Because...

LAW AND FAITH REGARDING RIGHTEOUSNESS VS. 5-9

“Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.” In other words, it was Moses’ teaching that righteousness learned from the Law is for those who are devoted to that standard. You cannot have righteousness by the keeping of the Law, though you certainly learn about it. On the other hand, you have righteousness which springs from faith. This righteousness itself makes two declarations: 1) Do not ask, “Who will bring Christ down from heaven?” Nor, “Who will bring Christ from up from the place of the dead?” (Probably because these are foolish questions with an obvious answer.) 2) The word of faith that we preach is near you, in your mouth and heart. Salvation is thus the result of confession with the mouth, and belief with your heart. Both of which focus on Christ.

HEART AND MOUTH REGARDING SALVATION VS. 10

“For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” Here Paul says that faith is born out of the heart and results in our standing before God changing from guilty to innocent. Certainly, the heart is seen as the residence of the soul, the seat of spirituality. It’s trust in Christ is rewarded with a legal declaration from God himself: justified.

He also says that confession is the activity of the mouth and results in our rescue from sins penalty. The mouth is a part of our physical being, making our faith manifest in its declarations. The primary declaration in salvation is an agreement with what is true concerning our sin, Savior, and salvation. But is this true for everyone?

JEW AND GENTILE REGARDING INCLUSION VS. 11-13

“As the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” Faith from the heart is not characteristic of any particular race, nation, nor culture alone. Paul clearly continues with, “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. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Our God is fair in His requisites for salvation. He does not discriminate on any criteria but His own. The Jews are those whom He has chosen to use and bless, but they do not have a monopoly on salvation. However, they are the keys to it’s availability to mankind.