

Gospel Responsibility

Romans 9:30-10:21

- Open your Bibles to the end of Romans 9, beginning in verse 30.
- We will cover the end of chapter 9 and all of chapter 10 today.
- Last week we covered the sovereignty of God and his purpose in election.
- This week we will cover the responsibility of people in God's offer of salvation.
- It is such a joy to open the word for you today. In many ways I am also sad.
- Moving to Utah in about 5 weeks in an effort to multiply and mobilize disciples, leaders, and churches.
- Everything we are leaving, we love deeply. (church family, job, home and neighborhood)
- What is it that would motivate our team to leave everything we love?
- A big vision of the sovereignty of God motivates us to take great risks for God.
- A person's response to the gospel determines their standing before God.
- Lostness in Utah; Strategy to see God's kingdom in Utah as it is in heaven.
- Lostness in RDU; We must go and proclaim the gospel to them.
- **[Proposition]:** A person's response to the gospel determines their standing before God.
- **[Purpose]:** And it is my prayer that today we would respond rightly to God's word and commit ourselves to carrying out our responsibility to believe the gospel continually, and proclaim the gospel boldly, compassionately, and with urgency.
- Pray
- Two primary responsibilities with the gospel...

We must believe the good news of Jesus in order to be saved. (9:30-10:13)

- [9:30-10:13]: Paul affirms that the majority of Jews trusted in their own works and sought to establish their own righteousness instead of trusting in the righteousness that God has provided in Jesus.
- In this, we see that righteousness comes only through faith in Christ and that this righteousness is easily accessible and universally available.
- **Right standing with God comes only through faith in Christ (9:30-10:4).**
- [9:30-33]: The Jews trusted in their own works to establish right standing with God instead of trusting in Jesus.
- In chapter 9, Paul began explaining that even though the majority of the Jews were not experiencing God's salvation, God's word had not failed. His purpose in election would stand.
- In light of this, Paul asks a question, and then gives the answer.
- Read 9:30-32. We see that...
- They pursued the wrong means in the wrong manner (31-32).
- [31]: Instead of pursuing righteousness itself, they pursued a law that would lead to righteousness.
- [32]: They pursued it not by faith, but as if it were by works.
- In so doing, they stumbled over the stumbling stone, just as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

- Paul quoting a passage from Isaiah 28:16 to reinforce the Jews have stumbled over the stumbling stone, i.e. Jesus
- Notice the text says that whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.
- So, by implication, those who don't will be put to shame.
- **[ILLUS]:** Stumbling over a silt fence on the construction job
- How much more will someone be humiliated when they realize they have stumbled over the stumbling stone in the gaze of the Almighty God!
- **[APP]:** Are you pursuing right standing with God through the wrong means? In the wrong manner?
- Not only did the Jews trust in their own works to establish right standing with God.
- [10:1-4]: The Jews sought to establish their own righteousness instead of submitting to the righteousness God provides in Jesus.
- (1): Paul expresses his heartfelt desire and prayer for the Jews to experience the salvation of God.
- (2-3): Paul explains why they are not currently experiencing God's salvation.
- Read the 10:1-3. What we see here is that...
- Their zeal was misapplied and their trust was misplaced (2-4).
- They do have a zeal for God; zeal is misapplied because it is not based on knowledge.
- They were using their zeal to establish their own righteousness before God.
- Not only was their zeal misapplied, but their trust was misplaced.
- Instead of submitting to God's way of providing righteousness for them in Jesus, they were trusting in themselves to establish this right standing on their own through works of the law.
- Romans 3:20: *For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight.*
- What is God's way of providing righteousness?
- [4]: Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
- Paul affirms that right standing with God comes through faith in Jesus Christ.
- When you think about Christ being the "end" of the law for righteousness think about...
- **[ILLUS]:** Finish line of a race course: goal of race and place the race ends
- In much the same way Christ is both the goal of the law (the law pointed to Christ and he fulfilled it), and he is the one in whom using the law to gain right standing with God is done away with for everyone who believes.
- This verse doesn't mean that the law is now unimportant for the believer.
- Romans 3:31: "Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law."
- Believing the gospel should motivate us to live according to God's standards.
- Right standing with God comes only through faith in Christ.
- No one can establish their own righteousness before God through works.
- **[APP]:** Is your zeal misapplied? Is your trust misplaced?
- Not only do we see that right standing with God comes only through faith in Christ, but we also see that
- **Right standing with God is easily accessible and universally available (10:5-13).**
- [10:5-13]: Paul contrasts righteousness based on the law with the righteousness based on faith to show how Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
- He shows that right standing with God is easily accessible and universally available.

- Right standing with God is easily accessible through faith in Christ (5-10).
- It cannot be attained through doing the law; it can only be attained through believing the gospel.
- ***It cannot be attained through doing the law (5).***
- Quotes Lev. 18:5, saying that a person will live if he or she does the commandments of God.
- Paul is saying that if a person is able to perform all that the law requires, it will lead to life.
- The problem is that this is unattainable.
- Already established Rom. 3:20: by works of the law, no human will be justified in his sight.
- Praise God he has not left us to ourselves but has brought salvation near to us in the gospel.
- Right standing with God cannot be attained through doing the law.
- ***It can only be attained through believing the gospel (6-10).***
- In contrast to the righteousness that is based on the law, the righteousness that is based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down) or ‘Who will descend into the abyss? (that is to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim).
- [6-8]: Paul quotes a passage from Deut 30:12-14 to show that right standing with God is available by faith because God has brought his word near to his people in the message of the gospel of Christ’s life, death and resurrection.
- Not only can we not attain salvation on our own, but we don’t have to.
- Christ has accomplished everything necessary for us to gain right standing with God; however, for this right standing to be applied to us, it requires a response on our part.
- [9-10]: Paul explains the simple response that mediates God’s salvation.
- Confessing that Jesus is Lord is not just merely giving him lip service, it is giving him a life of service. He is Lord!
- Believing in your heart that God raised him from the dead is not minimizing the life or death of Jesus. It is emphasizing that which is God’s stamp of approval on the life and death of Jesus.
- The presence and order of these two conditions in verse 9 flow out of what Paul has just said in verse 8 to show how the word of faith matches the description of the word in Deut. 30:14 being in your mouth and in your heart.
- The order in verse 10 shifts to believe and confess to reflect the natural order of how this actually occurs in experience.
- The gospel is near and it requires a simple response
- The simple response leads to the experience God’s salvation.
- What is the promise here for the person who confesses with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believes in their heart that God raised him from the dead?
- They will be saved.
- Right standing with God is easily accessible through faith in Christ.
- Right standing with God is universally available through faith in Christ (11-13).
- [11-13]: Paul emphasizes that the salvation Christ provides is available to all people through faith alone.
- ***Salvation is available to all.***
- 4 times in 3 verses Paul emphasizes the availability of salvation to all.
- “Everyone” (11); “all” 2x (12); “everyone” (13)

- ***Christ is sufficient for all.***
- 3 times in 3 verses Paul emphasizes the sufficiency of Christ for salvation.
- “will not be put to shame” (11); “bestowing his riches” (12); “will be saved” (13)
- ***Faith is necessary for all.***
- 3 times in 3 verses Paul emphasizes the necessity of faith for salvation.
- everyone who believes; those who don’t believe (11); all who call on him; those who don’t call on him (12); everyone who calls on the name of the Lord; those who don’t call on his name (13)
- **[APP]:** You may be here today thinking that you are somehow outside of God’s salvation.
- God has made his salvation easily accessible and universally available.
- This good news must be received by faith in order for people to be saved.
- But this, then, leads to another question.
- How is this good news made available to people so that they can be saved?
- Well, I am glad you asked because that is exactly where Paul takes us next.
- We have just seen that we must believe the good news of Jesus in order to be saved.
- In verses 14-21, we see that...

We must proclaim the good news of Jesus for others to be saved. (10:14-21)

- [14-21]: Paul highlights the conditions that must be met for someone to call on the Lord and be saved, and then shows that all of these conditions have been met for the Jews except one: they have not believed the gospel.
- In this we see that we must proclaim the gospel regularly and people must respond to the gospel obediently.
- **We must proclaim the gospel regularly (14-15, 17).**
- Flowing out of his citation of Joel 2:32, Paul outlines the steps that must be fulfilled for someone to call on the Lord and be saved.
- He does this by asking a series of rhetorical questions that emphasize each of the conditions that must be met for someone to be saved.
- John Stott has noted that if we put the verbs from the questions in the opposite order then we will see the essence of Paul’s argument: Christ sends heralds; heralds preach; people hear; hearers believe; believers call; and those who call are saved.
- Unless people are sent, the gospel of Christ will not be proclaimed; unless the gospel is proclaimed, people will not hear the gospel; unless people hear the gospel, they will not believe the gospel; unless people believe the gospel, they will not call on the Lord; and unless people call on the Lord, they will not be saved.
- Paul summarizes this argument in verse 17.
- Notice as Paul lays out the conditions that are necessary for someone to call on the Lord and be saved, he does it in such a way to highlight what those who are already saved must do.
- [14-15]: If Christ sends, others hear, believe, call, and are saved, what must we do?
- [15]: How beautiful are the feet of those who do what?
- [17]: If faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ, what must we do?
- Clarify that this is not primarily preaching from a pulpit.
- We must proclaim the gospel regularly for people to be saved.
- **[APP]:** How many think you have good looking feet? You want to know how to have beautiful feet? This text says it is not through a pedicure, it is through preaching the good news.

- People must hear the gospel in order to believe the gospel and call on the Lord to be saved.
- Therefore, we must proclaim the gospel regularly for people to be saved.
- You may be thinking “If you are saying that people must hear the gospel to be saved, what about the innocent person who has never heard the gospel? Will they be saved?” Yes, if they are innocent. But the Bible says that no one is innocent.
- All are under the power of sin.
- Romans 3:10-12: *None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.*
- People must hear the gospel in order to be saved; however, hearing is not sufficient for someone to be saved.
- A proper response from the one who hears the gospel is also necessary.
- We must proclaim the gospel regularly, but
- **People must respond to the gospel obediently (16, 18-21).**
- This is why Paul interrupts his argument in verse 16.
- In the middle of laying out the conditions that must be met for someone to be saved, Paul notes, “*They have not all obeyed the gospel.*” And then quotes a passage from Isaiah 53:1 to reinforce this reality.
- You may be thinking, “You just said people must obey the gospel to be saved. I thought you said salvation came through faith alone.” It does, and that faith is never alone. Saving faith always produces obedience. This is what Paul is saying in Rom. 1:5 and 16:26 “obedience of faith.”
- [18-21] Paul then raises two potential objections to reinforce that the Jews are responsible for not believing the gospel.
- He affirms that the Jews have heard the message of the gospel, and that they should have understood it.
- (18): He affirms the Jews have heard, and then confirms this by quoting Psalm 19:4.
- Original context Ps. 19:4: God’s word of general revelation proclaimed all over the earth.
- Here Paul is applying the language of this Psalm to make the point that God’s word of special revelation, the gospel, has been proclaimed in all the earth.
- Not literally proclaimed to every person in all the earth, but rather proclaimed widely enough for it to be said that representatives of Judaism had heard the gospel throughout the known world.
- Indeed, Israel had heard the message of the gospel.
- Not only had the Jews heard the gospel, but they also should have understood
- (19-20): Paul quotes passages from the Law and Prophets to affirm that Israel should have understood because it was prophesied in the OT.
- First, he quotes Deut. 32:21 to highlight that Moses prophesied that Israel would be driven to jealousy and made angry by another nation, i.e. the gentiles.
- Second, he quotes Isaiah 65:1 to reinforce the reality that God has been found by those who did not seek him, and that he has revealed himself to those who did not ask for him.
- The Jews should not be surprised by the current state of the church and the fact that it is made up of a majority Gentile population and the Jews are in the minority.
- Their Scriptures predicted it would happen.
- (21): Paul reinforces the reason the Jews are in the minority in the church: they continue to stubbornly refuse God’s offer of salvation. Paul quotes Isaiah 65:2 to make this point.

- **[APP]:** Some of you are here today who have heard the gospel many times and should have understood it, but you continually refuse God's offer of salvation in the gospel.
- Israel's response to God's offer of grace in the gospel determined their standing before God. And in the same way that Israel's response determined their standing before God, our response to the gospel determines our standing before God.
- It's possible you are thinking, "I thought God determined our standing before him?"
- Yes, he does.
- All of the OT texts cited in chapter 10 that reference Israel's disobedience and the Gentiles response of faith indicate that both were determined by God.
- Tom Schreiner, "the predictions of Scripture contain the unalterable purposes of God."
- Divine sovereignty and human responsibility are not incompatible. Friends; 2 sides of same coin; clear from this passage and clear from the testimony of Scripture.
- God is sovereign and we are responsible. God is the one who saves. He is sovereign in salvation. And we are responsible. We must proclaim the gospel for people to be saved, and people must obey the gospel in order to be saved.
- **[ILLUS]:** I had the privilege of seeing this play out in Phoenix a couple of weeks ago.
- **[APP]:** Work hard to carry out our responsibility. Trust in the sovereignty of God. Don't be offended when people don't respond in faith.
- A person's response to the gospel determines their standing before God.
- Brothers and sisters, we have a responsibility with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- We must believe the gospel in order to be saved.
- And we must proclaim the gospel in order for others to be saved.
- Those here today who have not experienced the salvation of God in the gospel.
 - Respond to the offer of salvation God holds out to you in the gospel.
 - The offer is free.
 - God himself has done everything necessary for you to be in a right relationship with him.
 - Jesus lived a sinless life, died a sinner's death, defeated sin's power in his resurrection, and will destroy sin completely in his return.
 - The offer is a free gift; however, it must be received by faith.
 - So, turn away from your sin and put your trust in Jesus. Call on the Lord and be saved.
 - The offer is costly.
 - It will cost you your life.
 - To acknowledge and confess that Jesus is Lord means to renounce the lie that you are the lord of your life and submit your life to the Lordship of Christ with the understanding that he commands and controls your destiny.
 - There is no salvation apart from Lordship.
- Those here today who have experienced the salvation of God in the gospel.
 - Persevere in the faith.
 - The only faith that saves is a faith that perseveres.
 - Proclaim the gospel.
 - Proclaim the gospel boldly.
 - The gospel of Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation that God has provided.

- And he has ordained that people must hear the gospel and respond in faith in order to be saved.
 - This should lead us to proclaim the gospel boldly.
- Proclaim the gospel compassionately.
 - If people don't hear the gospel and respond in faith, they will not be saved.
 - Over 2 billion people in the world today have never heard the gospel of Jesus
 - Unless someone takes the message of the gospel to them, actually shares the message with them, and the person responds in faith, these people will spend eternity separated from God.
 - This should lead us to proclaim the gospel compassionately.
- Proclaim the gospel with urgency.
 - Heard someone say, the gospel is only good news if it gets there in time.
- The gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, for in it the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous shall live by faith.”
- Brothers and sisters, as those who have responded rightly to this good news by faith, let's give ourselves to the faithful proclamation of this good news to those who have not called on the name of the Lord and been saved.
- What comfort, ambition, or reputation do you have that is not worth giving up when you realize that everyone's eternal destiny is dependent upon their response to Jesus?