

Romans (10:11-13)

Anyone & Everyone

Part 46 – August 28, 2005

QUIZ RECAP

Remember the quiz we took to determine whether or not we confess and believe, like the demons, or like Paul?

1. I must “confess with my mouth” that Jesus is: *My Lord*.
2. To “believe in your heart” is to: *Depend* on the truth.
3. To believe “God raised him from the dead” is to recognize: The *success* of the sacrifice.

Today, Paul continues this theme with an Old Testament twist.

As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” – *Romans 10:11-13 NIV*

Paul has just finished quoting Moses as saying:

[The word] is in your mouth and in your heart. – *Romans 10:8 NIV & (Deut.30:14)*

And he has shown (*Romans 10:9*), under the New Covenant, this means to:

- A. Confess with your mouth that “Jesus is Lord”.
- B. Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead.

Now, watch what he does with two famous Old Testament quotes.

First he quotes Isaiah (28:16): “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame” (“will never be put to shame” means: saved)

- Notice the word “trusts”. This is what we do with our heart.

Then he quotes Joel (2:32): “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”

- Notice the word “calls”. This is what we do with our mouth.

CALLING ON CHRIST

But Paul has a greater point, and he's been making it throughout Romans: God offers salvation to the Jew and the Gentile alike. And Paul sees it right here, in how both prophets preface their separate appeals to "trust" and "call" on the Lord:

- Isaiah says: "Anyone who trusts"
- Joel says: "Everyone who calls"

This is Paul's reason for inserting his declaration that: "There is no difference between Jew and Gentile". He's demonstrating how crystal clear the OT is, that:

- Anyone and everyone can trust in and call on the Lord.

Q: But weren't Isaiah and Joel talking about God (and not Jesus)?

Actually, Isaiah is talking about the precious cornerstone that God will lay in Zion (a reference to all the Jews). But Joel is not only talking about God, he's using God's personal name, "Yahweh" when he says: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord (Yahweh) will be saved"

NOTE: Many Bible versions translate "Yahweh" as "LORD".

And this leads to Paul's boldest statement about Christ yet. By quoting Joel, and applying the reference of Yahweh to Jesus, Paul makes declares that it's not enough to just call on Jesus as a teacher, or healer, or prophet.

- [To be a Christian] We must call on Jesus as (Yahweh) God.

Q: So, what is a legitimate "call on Jesus"?

It's very common to hear Jesus' name when someone hits their thumb with a hammer! It's also common to hear desperate people call out for help in a time of crisis.

And God certainly uses these "fox-hole" moments to speak to the hearts of those outside his Kingdom. But these "calls" are usually not based on faith or love for Christ.

- I have a clip from a 1978 Burt Reynolds film: "The End"

In it, his character tries to drown himself by swimming out into the ocean, but he decides he wants to live, and then realizes that he has swam too far out to save himself.

We see him bargaining with God for help; the humor comes from the fact that the closer he gets to shore, the more he reduces his offer.

Whenever you hear someone say, “God and I have an *agreement*.” You can bank on the fact that it’s a one-sided deal.

- They may be calling on God, but it’s a god of convenience.

When Paul talks about calling on Christ, he doesn’t mean as a stranger who gets us out of a jam and then rides off. That’s the Lone Ranger!

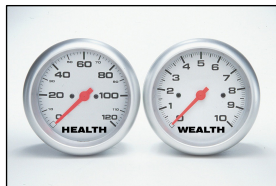
- There is no “saving faith”, where there is no submission to Jesus as Lord.

The emphasis will either be on God serving *me*, or on me serving *God*, in response to how richly he has blessed me.

TRUE RICHES

Now, notice (vs. 12) where it says that the Lord: “Richly blesses”

- Some translations say: “Generously gives his riches” (NLT)
- Others say: “Abounding in riches” (NAS)



Q: What are these “riches” the Lord blesses us with?

A: Some would respond in two words: Health & Wealth.

Don’t gauge your faith by these two indicators.

God does bless us materially – He does answer prayer – but the evidence of His blessing can not be simplistically reduced to any one factor.

He’s given us a conscience, a spirit, a brain, and His Word. This is more than enough to rightly examine our actions and monitor our walk of faith.

That’s why Job’s friends (wrongly) felt so compelled to convince Job that something *must* be wrong with his faith. It’s the only way they could explain the decline of his health and wealth.

Paul taught in chapter eight that:

The whole creation has been groaning ... – *Romans 8:22 NIV*

[And that] We ourselves ... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for ... the redemption of our bodies. – *Romans 8:23 NIV*

Q: So, what exactly are we “richly blessed” with?

A: Let’s look at it in the context of chapter ten.

If you ... believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. – Romans 10:9 NIV

It is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. – Romans 10:10 NIV

[And today's passage] Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be **saved**.
– Romans 10:13 NIV

Q: **Saved! Saved! Saved!** But saved from what?

- Saved from the pain, shame, guilt, and sadness of sin.
- Saved from Meaninglessness, loneliness, and emptiness.
- Saved from wrath and condemnation, and from damnation.

Q: That's what we are saved *from*, but what are we saved *for*?

- Saved for purpose, intimacy with God, and fulfillment.
- Saved for love, joy, peace, & the fruit of the Spirit.
- Saved for being safe & secure and confident & content.

And, the richest riches, the most treasured treasure of all:

... He did this to make the **riches of his glory** known to the objects of his mercy
... – Romans 9:23 NIV

God's ultimate riches (for those who treasure him) are that of seeing Him and knowing Him and enjoying Him forever! God himself is the sum of our riches in Christ.

And sometimes it actually requires a decline of our health and our wealth to help us fully appreciate how we've been blessed.



Some could feel a bit let down by this: "What about the cash?!" It's like giving a small child a full Rhodes scholarship ... *and* a bag of Reese's pieces.



Q: Which is more appreciated in the moment?

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. – 1 Corinthians 13:11 NIV

It's time to put away childish thoughts, and come to the mature realization of how we are truly, "richly blessed". It's with the things we need most, and that satisfy most deeply and permanently. And that's not cars or clothes or toys.

Anyone and everyone who trusts in, and calls on Christ, can receive a treasure beyond measure: an intimate union with God in his fullness.