

# Anyone and Everyone

## Receiving What We're Believing

August 29, 2021

**Today we're going digging for treasure. In God's Word!** But first: **Do you see truth as treasure?** And do you want God's riches? Important question. Because we won't look for what we don't want, and we can't want what we're not aware of. And why are you in His Word, if you're not looking for buried treasure. Because:

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. –

Proverbs 25:2 NIV



[And if you've accepted Jesus, well] [He] has made us kings – Revelation 1:6 NKJ

Sounds like the treasure hunt is on! *So let's dig in!* Last week we talked about not just walking the talk, but *talking the walk*, and we took a close look at Romans 10 verses 11 and 13:



“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

So it's “anyone who *trusts*” and “everyone who *calls*”. But I want you to notice something interesting that we didn't get to cover, that Paul snuck in between last week's verses:

“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

[So now look how this reads] “Anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile — the same Lord [of anyone who puts their trust in Him] is Lord of *all* and richly blesses all who call on Him [as *their* Lord] for “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” – Romans 10:11-13 NIV

It kinda feels like Paul's harping on this ‘anyone and everyone’. And whenever anyone harps on anything in scripture- *it makes me a little nervous*. Because **God doesn't waste words**. (Or mince words for that matter.) So if I don't see the value of a *redundant* verse ... well *X marks the spot!* So let's look for whatever the Lord, *through Paul*, might be hiding in plain sight. Now, remember from last Sunday: **we believe with our heart and confess with our mouth**. But I wanna show you something that's concealed in plain sight: In verse 11, Paul is quoting Isaiah: “anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame”. That's Isaiah 28:16! And notice the word “trusts”. **This is what we do with our heart**. And then in verse 13, Paul quotes Joel: “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”. That's Joel 2:32. And now notice the word “calls”. **This is what we do with our mouth**. Believe with your heart, confess with your mouth; trust and call – got it!

So why does Paul *jam* that “no difference between Jew and Gentile” verse right in the middle?! Well, the point Paul’s been pounding in, is that God offers salvation to Jew and Gentile alike (FYI: Gentile means non-Jew). And Paul sees something very profound in weaving together the words of these two prophets: Isaiah says: “anyone who trusts”, Joel says: “everyone who calls”. So Paul sees the OT as crystal clear: **anyone and everyone can trust in and call on the Lord!** *But here’s the thing: Joel uses God’s personal name: YAHWEH.*

“Everyone who calls on YAHWEH will be saved” – Joel 2:32 NKJ

And **that’s a name God doesn’t share!** *Don’t believe me?* Back to Isaiah – who quotes *God* saying:



I am YAHWEH, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another –  
Isaiah 42:8 NKJ



And this leads to Paul’s boldest, albeit somewhat *concealed*, statement about Christ yet. By quoting Joel, and replacing Yahweh with Jesus, Paul makes crystal clear that **it’s not enough to just call on Jesus as a teacher, or healer, or prophet. We must call on Jesus as God!** But, what is a legitimate ‘call on Jesus’ as God? It’s very common to hear Jesus’ name called when someone hits their thumb with a hammer! It’s also common to hear desperate people call out for help. 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. 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’re quite likely calling on a god of convenience.** That’s another form of “zeal without knowledge”, which we covered a couple weeks ago. But when *Paul* talks about calling on Christ, **he doesn’t mean as a stranger who gets us out of a jam and then disappears.** *That’s a genie!* Remember Paul was executed for his faith along with many other strong believers. No. **Calling on Jesus as Lord can be very inconvenient in this world.**

In Paul’s day, Jews calling Him Lord meant He *was* God and you’re in big trouble with the *religious* system. And Gentiles calling Him Lord meant the emperor *wasn’t* God and you’re in big trouble with the *world’s* system. **Calling on Jesus meant anyone and everyone was in big trouble.** Period! That’s probably why Paul prefaced this with the reminder:

“Anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.” – Romans 10:11 NIV

Like we were saying last Sunday, **you can’t shame a true believer for trusting Jesus as Lord.** Because *nothing and no one* can compare to the value of who and what we’re confessing and believing! Even the shame of *sin* is removed in Jesus! If He’s your *Lord*. But notice how it’s worded: put to shame. **It’s impossible to be proven wrong if what you believe is true.** And God *is*. Which is why we have to put our trust in Him, His Word, and His truth. Not ourselves y’know: “lean not on your own understanding”. And that’s a process (bump-bump-bump), because it flies in the face of our instinct to do whatever it takes to save face whenever we fear being shamed by others. And that sure muddies up what *is* true.



And I sure wish I had gotten *that* through my thick cocoon when I was young! Because **I think I was born an expert ... on worrying about what others thought.** And I still battle that. As far back as I can remember- I lived and died for the approval of others. But the tension when there were 'opposing approvals' drove me crazy. Do I go for the approval of students or the approval of teachers? How about my Sunday school mom vs. My Friday night friends? I dreaded the opinions and shame of anyone and everyone on the side I chose to *let down*. No matter which side I chose- I was in big trouble! And that anxiety peaked in my 20s with a trip to the ER, fully believing I was having a full-on heart attack.

Thank heavens. Seriously, because that *actually* helped. Because death is definitely a tool God uses to get our attention! *Got mine*. God set me up. He sets us all up! To force us to accept a really hard truth: **Approval down here can be dangerous if not deadly.** Like we read last Sunday:

Many even among the leaders believed in Him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; For they loved human praise more than praise from God. – John 12:42-43 NIV

**In the end, human praise means nothing.** *Unless they're praising what God's praising.* And finally learning that – really eases the pain down here and radically reduces trips to the ER! I love how C.S. Lewis puts it: **Aim at heaven - get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth - get neither.**

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile— ...

The Jews were fearing the shame of the religious system, the Gentiles were fearing the shame of the world's system, and Paul is giving us a sense of the gravity of the trusting, *believing, calling, and saving* that we've been talking about; whoever you were *before* doesn't matter when you're partnering with God himself!

... The same Lord and richly blesses all who call on him – Romans 10:12 NIV

Now what about those riches? What exactly *are* they? Well, *some* would respond in two words: Health and Wealth. *Not so fast "some"!* God *does* bless us *materially* and He *does* answer prayer – but the substance and nature of His blessing cannot 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 gauge and examine our trust in Him and the richness of our blessings.**

But without Jesus as our Lord and God's Word as our truth – we'll continue to judge riches according to this world's system and human praise. That's why Job's misguided friends 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 his wealth. *Which is why it's so satisfying at the end, when God says...* 'I'm gonna kill you three for the way you spoke to Job... unless Job prays for you.'

So then, what exactly are we "**richly blessed**" *with*? Well, what did Paul *say* we *get*?

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

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be **SAVED**. – Romans 10:13 NIV



You get **THAT**. *That's* a thing you get. You get **SAVED**. “But, saved from *what?*” Saved from the **pain, shame, guilt,** and **sadness** of sin. Saved from **meaninglessness, loneliness,** and **emptiness**. And saved from **wrath** and **condemnation**, and from **damnation**. You get that... you get *all* that. 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,** & all the **fruit of the spirit**. And saved for **safety & security** and **confidence & contentment**. We get all of *that*. But the most treasured treasure of all, is the person of Jesus:

He did this to make the riches of His glory known to the objects of His mercy [and if Jesus is your *Lord - that's you!*] – Romans 9:23 NIV

**You get to know God. Completely and personally.** Anyone and everyone who goes digging *gets*:

... the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are *hidden* all the *treasures* of wisdom and knowledge. [You dig?] – Colossians 2:2-3 ESV

[And you get] ... the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of His will ... which He set forth in Christ ... – Ephesians 1:7-10 ESV

[Get it?] To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you – Colossians 1:25-27 ESV

God's ultimate riches (for those who trust and 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 here's an incredibly unpopular truth: **sometimes it actually requires a decline of our health and wealth to help us fully appreciate how we've truly been blessed.**



So, **do you see truth as treasure?** (buried treasure pic) do you see it as something worth seeking?

Do you delight in digging? Because we won't look for what we don't want, and we can't want what we're not aware of.

**And why are you in His Word, if you're not looking for buried treasure?**