

THE ROMAN REVEALING
Theme: The Reign of Righteousness
From the Sermon Notebook of Dr. Doyce H. Nolan

SUBJECT: GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION
SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 10:1-21

Introduction

One of the common misunderstandings in our day is that some believe that they have to be good to receive salvation. Or, that they must do certain things to please the Lord and earn His good favor. However, nothing could be farther from the truth! Salvation is the work of God.

I. JESUS THE SAVIOR REVEALED(1-4).

1. The Condition Of Israel (1). Brethren, my hearts desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. Paul begins this chapter with a clear statement that the Jew is lost in sin! He wants to see them saved; he wants to see them delivered from the wrath of God that hangs over them.

We need to have such a burden for our loved ones and our neighbors. While they may appear well and healthy, in reality, they are walking dead men, who live under the constant threat of divine wrath, **John 3:18; He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.** These are people who, at any

moment of time, could be cut off and cast into Hell! They are not promised the next moment.

2. The Confusion Of Israel (2-3). For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

The Jews desired to please God by their works, and totally missed the truth that God is pleased through faith alone, **Heb. 11:6. Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

True righteousness can never be produced by the works of the flesh. Why? Because the flesh is totally corrupt and incapable of producing anything righteous that will be accepted by God. **Isa. 64:6. We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.**

Israel failed to see that they could never keep the Law, and that real righteousness is awarded to those who simply look to God by faith and trust Him and the finished work of Jesus on the cross!

Sadly, many are in that same place today. They are trying to be good so that they can please God and earn a place in Heaven. However, the Bible is clear when it tells us that this will never work, **Eph. 2:8-9; For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Titus 3:5. Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;**

Friends, it is not about what we can do, it's all about what Jesus has already done for us!

3. The Conclusion Of The Apostle (4). **For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**

Jesus makes those who trust Him by faith righteous! This is something the law could never do. Jesus lived a sinless life and died in the place of every sinner. He fulfilled the just demands of the Law and set us free from it! He provides righteousness full and free for everyone that will trust Him by faith, **2 Cor. 5:21; For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.** Salvation and righteousness are given to all those who trust Jesus by faith. Paul's conclusion is that salvation can be found in the finished work of Jesus alone!

We are saved by pure grace, and we are saved to serve the Lord, not the flesh! Not self. Not the world or the devil. If we are really born again, we are free from the Law, but we are not free to follow sin. We are free from the bondage of sin to live for the Lord.

II. JESUS THE SAVIOR RECEIVED (5-15).

1. The Procedure (5-10). In these verses Paul teaches us the true path to salvation. He shows what won't work, then he shows us what will work to save man's soul.

(1) Righteousness Isn't Found In Keeping The Law (5). **For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, that the man which doeth those things shall live by them.** The only way righteousness is possible through the Law, is if a person could keep every law perfectly and not break even the smallest. Because to

break one means a person is guilty of the whole thing, **James 2:10. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and offend in one point, he is guilty of all.** Man isn't a sinner because he sins, man sins because he is a sinner, **Rom. 3:23; For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.** We are born in sin, we just prove the reality of our sinful nature by the things we do.

(2). Righteousness Isn't Found In Great Signs (6-7). The righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above). Or, who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) Jesus has already come down from Heaven, and no one has to search the seas to find the way, Jesus has come to make and be the way. Jesus has already taken care of everything for us!

(3). Righteousness Is Found In Simple Surrender (8-10). But what saith it? The Word is neigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thine heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach. That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. We have everything we need to be saved present within us. All we need to do is go about it God's way. *What is God's way?*

i. The Mouth. It is to confess the Lord Jesus. God wants us to come to the place where we are in agreement with everything the Bible says concerning the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. All we need to do is go about it God's way.

ii. The Heart The ancient people saw the heart as the center of all thought, the deepest and most sacred part of man. Paul wants lost

men to know that if they will be saved, they must believe in the completed work of Jesus with all their heart. It is to be Jesus and Jesus alone that is the object of faith! Anything less than total trust in the Lord Jesus will not produce salvation, but lead the sinner straight to Hell.

Sadly, many are trying to hold Jesus with one hand and other things with the other. This will not work! Salvation is Jesus plus nothing! That is made clear many times in the Word of God, **Acts 16:31; John 3:16; John 6:47; Eph. 2:8-9** The question we need to answer for ourselves is this: "*What am I trusting to get me to Heaven right now?*"

2. The Promises of Righteousness (11-13). When we come to faith God's way, we are given some precious promises.

(1) Assurance (11). For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. We are reminded here that when we trust Jesus according to God's plan, we will never be disappointed.

(2) Acceptance (12). For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. God does not play favorites. Anyone who hears His call and responds in faith will be saved by the grace of God.

(3) Amnesty (13). For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Here the promise is confirmed. The redeemed child of God need never fear being cast out or cast away. When God saves a soul, He saves that soul forever! Scripture verifies that the Holy Spirit seals us for the day of redemption. (Eph.4:30).

III. JESUS THE SAVIOR REJECTED (16-21).

1. Israel's Rejection Of Christ Is Confusing (16-20). They had the prophets; they had the Law of God; they had heard the report of the coming Messiah and they even had the Messiah in their midst. They had even seen the Lord turn to the Gentiles and save many of them and yet the Jew's refused to believe. They heard and they knew, yet they refused to believe.

2. Their Rejection Is Continuing (21). God said to Israel, **All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.** These were the words of Isaiah attempting to show God's love and patience toward them. He still reaches out to them and wants them to turn to Him. Throughout their history, Israel had been guilty of rejecting the clear path they had been given by God and choosing their own path. They attempted to reach God through self-effort and self-righteousness. Both of which failed terribly. As a result, they came under God's condemnation and judgment. Such will be the case of every sinner who refuses to repent and honor God's plan for their salvation!

Conclusion

God only has one plan of salvation. It is not a Jewish plan, nor a Baptist plan, nor a Muslim plan. If you wish to go to Heaven when you leave this world, then you must come to God on His terms. We must reject every work of the flesh and every attempt to get there on our own. Let us do as Peter commanded in **2 Peter 1:10**, **"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:"** Be certain you have come to God on His terms and that you are truly saved.

