

Sermon Series: “Romans – The Life of Faith; the Power of Grace

Sermon: *The Responsibilities of Man* – Romans 10:9-17

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Good morning. We will continue to spend our summer in Rome for the rest of this month, as we work our way through Paul’s letter to the Romans.

As I was reading through the text for today from Romans 10 and preparing the message, I wasn’t real sure which direction to go with Paul’s thoughts here. Then, I started to think about the past few weeks and the news items that have captured our attention, and the ones that are not. It has become very clear to me and perhaps to you, that there are many man-made priorities taking precedence in our nation and world, and the priorities God has given us are either being ignored or discarded. For example...

The Supreme Court ratifying same sex marriage for all 50 states, ignoring God’s Biblical directive of one man and one woman.

And while God expects marriage to be a commitment for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health until death parts us; the man-made priorities regarding marriage are fickle and temporary, and the eternal nature of marriage even mocked...Kermit & Miss Piggy splitting after 40 years.

With the story out of Zimbabwe regarding Cecil the Lion killed by the local dentist, it seems to have become man’s priority to protect animals and wildlife at all costs, while the preservation of human life is ignored, discarded and even sold while hundreds and thousands of lives are destroyed each day by terrorist organizations, unjust wars, and in procedure rooms in abortion clinics across our globe.

So today, Paul helps us to focus on two of God’s priorities for us as Christians, to receive Jesus by faith, and to proclaim Jesus Christ to all. Paul begins chapter 10 like he started out Chapter 9, talking about his love for his fellow Israelites. Paul’s desire is for them to be saved, but the fact remained that many of them were not. It is not for a lack of zeal, however. The Jews were very zealous for the Lord.

But, sincerity does not equal salvation. One of the major things we find in Scripture that the Lord has given us responsibility in is to receive Jesus Christ by faith. But it’s not about us... In these verses, Paul clearly tells us that there is no thing we can do in regards to works.

Jesus died for your sins and He is the only one who can save us. Salvation is completely of the Lord.

Read verses 9 & 10...Here and throughout the Scriptures, God provides us with the knowledge we need to know about the salvation He has provided through His Son.

How do you Receive Jesus by Faith? First it is important to understand that we receive Jesus by faith and believing in Him and what he has done for us and all people. 1) We need to believe that Jesus died for our sins. He is the substitutionary sacrifice. He died in our place, taking on Himself what we deserve. We must believe this for salvation. 2) Paul also tells us here that we must believe that Jesus rose from the dead. A belief in Jesus’ resurrection is

essential to salvation. It is through the resurrection that Jesus is declared and proven to be who he said He was and the proof that shows He always keeps His promises.

In 1 Corinthians 15:13-14 Paul states, "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."

So, these 2 things about Jesus are essential to believe.

That Jesus died for your sins.

That Jesus Rose from the dead.

When we believe that in our heart, truly believe that Jesus is who He said He was, and He did what He said He was going to do for us/for you and for me, then we should just acknowledge that and confess that to the Lord. Yes Lord, I truly believe.

Receiving Jesus by faith is not the only responsibility and priority the Lord has given us. He has also given us the responsibility to proclaim Jesus Christ to all.

Read verses 14-15...

Now when it talks about someone preaching to them it is not talking about just a person who preaches. This is not just for preachers and pastors, this is for all. Those of us who have received Christ have the best news in the world to share, certainly much better than the news we have been hearing lately. And the Lord wants us to share it! He wants us to proclaim it boldly. This is the last thing he told those who would begin the church before he ascended into heaven.

In Mark 16:15 Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." The Lord wants us to proclaim this news to everyone. And this is not just for those who walk through the doors to come to church. Not just for those who are seeking Him. No, this is for everyone, even to those who do not seek. And as we heard in our offering song today, there are opportunities all around us every day.

That means we need to be sharing Christ outside of these walls. "Here am I, Lord, send me!" This chapter says "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Would you say your feet are beautiful? Mine are not! But if your feet are bringing good news to those you know and those around you, then they are truly beautiful! We need to seize the opportunities that the Lord places before us to proclaim the good news to everyone.

At our work places or classrooms on Monday mornings, when we talk about our weekends with our coworkers or schoolmates, seize the opportunity to talk about what you heard at church.

Pray for opportunities and then expect them. There is no greater blessing than being used by God to proclaim the good news of Jesus with others. God uses us to affect other people's eternities. Amazing! Is our God great or what?

Strengthening our faith in who Jesus is and what He did for us, and strengthening our resolve to share the Good News of Jesus with those around us. Now those are good priorities! In the name of Jesus. Amen.