

# BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

## The Righteousness from God

Romans 10:1-13

2000

### Introduction

In Romans chapter 9, Paul presented God's elective sovereignty in salvation

In Romans 10, He presents the role of human responsibility in salvation

The fact is that the Bible teaches both God's sovereignty and man's responsibility. They are two sides of the same coin and, though difficult to fully understand, it must be accepted by faith.

It is not our responsibility to try to determine whom God has chosen but to proclaim the gospel to every person who is willing hear it, praying with Paul's earnestness that they will believe and receive Christ as Savior and Lord.

### I The Heart Of Paul For The Jews

Paul did not have a cold, heartless indifference toward his fellow Jews. Instead, he had a deep longing to see them saved and come to knowledge of the truth.

A. He **loved** them [verse 1]

1. He desired that they might be saved

Paul was deeply grieved that his own people, the Jewish nation, had failed to accept the salvation that was proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul's love for the Jews was an extension of God's own heart for the lost.

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord ... is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

As we discovered in Romans 9:1-3 ...

1. He had great sorrow for the Jews

**Great sorrow** = Lupe = "Overwhelming sadness or heaviness of heart"

2. He had unceasing anguish for the Jews

**Unceasing anguish** = Odune = Continual grief"

3. He had a sacrificial heart for the Jews

a. He wished himself accursed for their sake

**Accursed** = Anathema = "To ban or excommunicate"

b. He wished himself cut off for their sake

Paul has such a great love in his heart for his fellow Jews that he was willing to forfeit his own salvation and spend eternity in hell if somehow that could bring His fellow Jews to faith in Christ!

### Application:

What would happen if we loved our friends and neighbors with this kind of love?

What would happen if we loved people in this community with this kind of love?

B. He prayed for them

**Prayed** = Deesis = “To plead with persistent petition to God”

1. He prayed for them that they might be saved

A genuine concern for the spiritual welfare of others always leads to fervent prayer!

C. He **understood** them

Acts 22:3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.”

Galatians 1:14 “I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.”

### **Application**

One of the key principles of persuasion and influence in another person’s life is understanding. If you aim at truly understanding another person’s position or belief, it opens the door for significant influence. *Seek first to understand.*

### **Illustration**

Door to door witnessing in Hanalei. My conversation with a Mormon family.

## **II The Reason The Jews Stumbled Over Jesus**

Paul testified on the behalf of the Jews that ...

A. They were zealous for God **[verse 2a]**

**Zeal** = Zelos = “Fervent or white hot”

It was term used to describe boiling water or molten metal.

Paul understood better than most the zeal of the Jews, since he himself was also once zealous for God. But as he confessed in 1 Tim 1:12 his zeal and the zeal of the Jewish people was based on ignorance and unbelief.

But zeal and sincerity will never be an acceptable alternative to truth!

Prov 19:2 “It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way.”

**Illustration:** Most other religions outpace the Christians in zeal.

Mormon missionaries -- Jehovah Witnesses -- Bahai missionaries

Of course, the driving motivation for their zeal is grounded in the belief that they must attain salvation through good works. Christianity is the only method of salvation that is not works based. Every other world religion maintains that you must diligently keep their system of rules and regulations if you hope to have eternal life.

## Application

Rom 12:11 “Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.”

An expanded translation of this verse might be, “Never be weary, lazy or negligent in your relationship with God. Instead, be diligent to maintain a white-hot intensity in your love for Him and serve Him enthusiastically as His voluntary slave.

How would you describe your current relationship with the Lord?

Cold? Lukewarm? Or white hot?

If it isn't white hot, then you need to hear God's word to the church of Ephesus in Revelation: “You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.”

1. But their zeal is not based on **knowledge** [verse 2b]

**Knowledge** = Epignosis = “Full discernment”

The people of God are repeatedly accused of being ignorant of God's truth. But it wasn't because they didn't have access to truth, but because they rejected it.

Hosea 4:6 “My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. “Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.”

2 Timothy 3:7 “[They are] always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.”

- B. They did not know the righteousness that comes from God [verse 3a]

1. They sought to establish their **own** righteousness

Romans 9:31-32 “But Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it.... Because they pursued it as if it were by works.”

God never intended anyone to be saved through obedience to the Law, but rather that our failure to live up to it would drive us to Christ.

Galatians 3:24 “... the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.”

Philippians 3:9 “... and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.”

2. They did not submit to **God's** righteousness [verse 3b]

**Submit** = Hypotasso = “To subordinate or subject one's self to in obedience”

Rom 8:7-8 “... the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.”

Romans 1:18, 21 "... men who suppress the truth by their wickedness ... for although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened."

Instead of turning to God and receiving the righteousness He provided in Christ, they sought to establish their own righteousness based on works.

### **Application**

How can you know if you are submitted to God? If you obey His Word.

But it is important to remember that obedience is not the cause of salvation, but the fruit of salvation.

## **III The Contrast Between the Law and Faith**

### **A. The righteousness that comes by the Law [verse 4]**

#### **1. Christ is the end of the law**

**End** = Telos = It can mean either, "Goal" or "Termination"

##### **1. Goal**

Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

Romans 8:3-4 "For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit."

##### **2. Termination**

Christ puts an end to the law, not by destroying the law, but by fulfilling it.

Belief in Christ as Savior and Lord brings to an end the sinner's futile quest for righteousness through his own imperfect attempts to fulfill the law. And in its place, receives the gift of Christ's own righteousness. (2 Corinthians 3:6-18; Romans 7:1-4)

#### **a. That there may be righteousness for everyone who believes**

Romans 3:22 "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference ..."

### **2. Moses description of righteousness that is by the law [verse 5]**

#### **a. The man who does these things will live by them - Leviticus 18:5**

Yes, it's true! If someone were able to perfectly keep the Law in its entirety without sinning even once, it would result in eternal life. However, with the exception of Jesus Christ, no one has ever been able to accomplish this feat. Remember the example of Adam and Eve: Only one sin was enough to cost them relationship with God.

Galatians 3:10 “All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”

James 2:10 “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”

Romans 3:20-22 “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”

## B. The righteousness that comes by faith

### 1. Does not require heroic acts

- a. Ascending into **heaven** to bring Christ down [verse 6]
- b. Descending into the **grave** to bring Christ up [verse 7]

Deut 30:11-14 “Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, “Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, “Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.”

It has been said that, “The sheer perversity of unbelief is shown by the many who prefer to undertake an impossible odyssey rather than put their trust in an accessible Christ.”

### 2. It is very available [verse 8]

- a. It is in your **mouth**
- b. It is in your **heart**

The Word of God and the gospel of salvation are available, accessible and simple.

### 3. What is required?

Receiving the gift of salvation and the promise of eternal life only requires two very simple steps:

- a. **Confess** with your mouth that Jesus is Lord [verse 9a]  
*Confess* = Homologeo = “To speak the same thing, or to be in agreement with”  
In this case, it means to be in agreement with God that Jesus is Lord!  
*Lord* = Kurios = “Sovereign power and authority”

1 Corinthians 12:3 “Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.”

Philippians 2:11 “... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

“Jesus is Lord” became one of the earliest creeds of the New Testament church.

It is interesting to note that in the book of Acts, Jesus is referred to only twice as Savior and 92 times as Lord. In the entire NT, He is referred to 10 times as Savior and over 700 times as Lord.

### **Application**

Do you think that maybe God knew that we would be quick to accept His Son as Savior but reject Him as having absolute power and authority over our lives? Many claim Him as Savior, but few live as if He is Lord!

- b. **Believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead [verse 9b]

The Hebrews considered the heart to be the central core of man – the place where thought, will and motive are generated. Many people are willing to acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God. But Paul is speaking of a belief that results in a confession of allegiance to Christ as Savior, Lord and Master.

We know from James 2:19 that even the demons believe and shudder.” So it is possible for a person to have a biblical understanding of Jesus Christ, lead a moral life, acknowledge sin, be intensely religious and sincere and still go to hell.

John 20:31 “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

### ***And what must we believe?***

That Jesus is the Messiah and that He died for our sins and rose on the third day from the dead.

#### **4. The result?**

- a. You will be **justified** [verse 10a]

**Justified** = “Declared and made righteous”

- b. You will be **saved** [verse 10b]

**Saved** = Delivered from power of sin and the penalty of sin”

Justification is a declaration of eternal life we receive but do not deserve.

Salvation is a declaration of eternal punishment we deserve but do not receive.

The person who confesses Jesus as Lord agrees with God the Father. And that confession mixed with belief that Jesus rose from the dead results in salvation.

- b. You will never be put to **shame** [verse 11]

**Put to shame** = Kataischuno = Disgraced or dishonored”

Isaiah 28:16 “So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed.”

Those who commit themselves to Christ will never be disappointed.

#### IV The Universal Opportunity for Righteousness

- A. God’s righteousness is available to both Jew and Gentile [verse 12a]

Romans 1:16 “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”

1. God is **Lord** of all [verse 12b]

Earlier in Rom 3:22-25, Paul used this same phrase in a very negative way: “There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

But here he uses it to proclaim to Jews and Gentiles alike that the gift of God in Christ Jesus is available to any and all who receive it by faith.

2. God richly blesses all who **call** on him [verse 12c]

**Call** = Epikaleomai = “To invoke or appeal to”

To call upon the Lord was to recognize and submit to His deity, His authority, His sovereignty, His power, His Word and His grace.

- B. God’s righteousness is available to everyone [verse 13]

1. **Everyone** who calls on the Lord will be saved

Joel 2:32 “And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls.”

Acts 2:21 “And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

So if a person is not saved, it is not because salvation is not available, but rather, that it has been refused (2 Thessalonians 2:10).

Every man, woman and child is responsible for their eternal destiny. The choice is ours. Yes, God elects. Yes, God predestines. Yes, God foreknows. But the eternal truth of God’s Word remains: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!”

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