

I'D RATHER DO IT MYSELF!

Romans 10:1-13

Little ditty we used to repeat as children: *Same song, second verse, a little bit louder & a whole lot worse!*

Rom 10 does that: **"Same song, 2nd verse"** to Rom 9!

After Israel's past, looks at Israel's present condition
Israel's pursuing a "lost cause!"

After Christ finished battle, Israel *still* fights for law,
though there's no way they can fulfill it.

Like children growing up: **"I'd rather do it myself!"**

They try to satisfy God's demands themselves

They *still* think they can make it on their own.

Mistaken concept isn't limited to Israel!

Modern cults present the same idea.

People still would rather try to do it ourselves

We don't understand impossibility of attaining God's standard

2 ways people try to be acceptable to God

Like Israel, some try to make it on our own 1-3

Paul desires Israel to be saved 1 *"Brothers, my*

heart's desire & prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved."

Israel's desire to make it on their own 2-3 *"For*

I can testify about them that they're zealous for God, but their zeal isn't based on knowledge. ³Since they didn't know the righteousness that comes from God & sought to establish their own, they didn't submit to God's righteousness."

They're zealous for God 2a

Paul too, was zealous—more than all his classmates

He understands their zeal—they're zealous for God, but...

They don't understand God's righteousness 2b-3a

They try to establish their own righteousness 3b

Therefore, **they don't accept God's righteousness** 3c

They'll never be good enough to satisfy a holy God

=> They're left with *nothing!*

***People who try to make it on their own
cut themselves off from God's supply
and end up bankrupt!***

2nd alternative people try to become acceptable to God:

Some trust JESUS to provide what we need 4-13

**Jesus provides everything law demands, for all who
trust Him** 4 *"Christ is the end of the law so*

that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

=> Jesus completes all the law requires!

He offers it to everyone who trusts Him.

Law-based attempts require total obedience 5

"Moses describes in this way the righteousness that's by the law:

"The man who does these things will live by them

If you **DO** them, you'll live! People who **obey** them live.

Lk 10: Lawyer comes to Jesus asking what he must **DO** to inherit eternal life, Jesus asks him what law says. Young man summarizes: *"Love the Lord with all your heart & love your neighbor as yourself."*

Jesus' responds: *"Good answer! DO this, & you'll live!"*

All we have to do: *live* by rules–*continually* obey!

Problem: no one keeps all demands all the time!

Therefore *all* are *condemned* as lawbreakers.

[If law-based approach won't make it, how do we get right with God? Paul goes back to OT for answer:]

Faith-based attempts require a “heart & mouth” response to Jesus 6-13 6a “The righteous

ness based on faith says, “**Do not say in your heart...**” <= Dt. 9:4-5 “**Do not say in your heart**, after the Lord your God has driven them out before you, “The Lord has brought me here to take possession of this land **because of my righteousness**.” No, it is on account of the wicked-ness of these nations that the Lord is going to drive them out before you. ⁵It's not because of your righteousness or your integrity... => **Don't kid yourself!**

What aren't they supposed to tell themselves?

Don't tell self God blesses us because of our righteousness!

Faith-based righteousness isn't MY righteousness

Faith-based righteousness flows out of a heart & mouth which trusts Jesus 6b-13 6b-7 “Do not

say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).”

Don't think you can “make it happen!”

Dt 30:14 “The word's very near you; it's *in your mouth & in your heart* so you may obey it.”

God's command isn't too difficult; it isn't out of reach

We don't have to struggle to find way—work to make Jesus come to us.

It won't come by our efforts to reach God!

We couldn't get Him to come down from heaven!

We couldn't raise Him up from the dead!

What can *WE* do about it? We can't do *anything* to make it happen! *He's already done it all!*

—God reached out to US—He sent it!

***It comes out of our mouth & heart* 8-13 8**

*“What does it say? “The word's near you; it's **in your mouth & in your heart**,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim” => **mouth/heart message**]*

They had answer from beginning: *“the word of faith!”*

God's Word, written in their hearts told them what to do.

Problem: we refuse to come *by faith*.

We'd rather do it ourselves!

So they haven't fulfilled the way of law, NOR of faith!

=> They're still under judgment.

Message of faith we proclaim => “mouth & heart” message.

It involves both: **a mouth and heart response to Jesus**

With our mouth we acknowledge: Jesus is Lord

9a/10b *“If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord...”¹⁰for... it is with your mouth that you confess & are saved.”*

With our heart we trust Him 9b/10a *“If you... believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

¹⁰*For it is with your heart that you believe & are justified...”*

"Out of abundance of the heart the mouth speaks"

Content of this confession: *"Jesus is Lord!"*

One of original confessions of the church

"LORD" = Jewish/Hebrew name for YHWH

Acknowledging Jesus is God, logical response: trust Him

Scripture calls for heart/mouth response to Jesus

With our heart we believe 11-12 "As Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." ¹²For there's no difference between Jew & Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all & richly blesses all who call on him"

Faith in Christ is sufficient for everyone, Jew or Gentile!

Only one YHWH and He's Lord for everyone!

With our mouth we call on His name 13 "For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved

Acknowledging Jesus is LORD leads us to call on His name!

**People who trust Jesus & acknowledge Him
receive everything we need
to make it with God!**

WHICH ALTERNATIVE WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

"I'd rather do it myself?" => spiritual bankruptcy

Trust in Christ alone => Everything we need in Him

Col. Sanders (KFC) says he was always God-fearing. Yet knew that if he died, God wouldn't take him to heaven. At 79, Sanders claimed promise of Rom 10:9. "I knew I was a different man. All my good deeds had never given me the sense of God's presence that I knew then."

Most people in this room could tell same story!
Israel's struggle to establish *her own* righteousness shows contrast
between **world religions & God's plan.**

Religion appeals for people seeking God.

"No one seeks Him!"—God always takes initiative!

*If we try to establish our own righteousness, we cut
ourselves off from God's righteousness!*

When we try to make ourselves right with God, we cut ourselves
off from **God's** grace & salvation; end up without any!

Salvation is by FAITH alone!

If we trust Jesus, He provides everything to make it with God!

We come to God by trusting Christ alone!

What are WE trusting?