

A Heart for Souls (Romans 10:1-15)

- I. The Book of Romans Review
 - A. The book of Romans is probably the most important book in the Bible, theologically speaking, and it was written by probably the most important person in the Bible, not counting the Lord.
 - B. The church in Rome was probably started by converts from Pentecost, and it contained mostly Gentile believers. Why the book of Romans was written?
 1. There was a division in the church between the large Gentile membership and the lesser in number Jewish membership.
 2. Paul was the first apostle to try to educate these people about their salvation.
 3. He was planning a future trip.
 - C. What have we talked about so far?
 1. Romans 5:1-11 \approx our right standing with the Lord through His work on the cross.
 2. Romans 5:12-21 \approx sin by Adam, salvation by Christ.
 3. Romans 6:1-14 \approx free to live for the Lord, not bound by sin anymore.

II. Romans 10:1-4

- A. Matthew 7:21-23 – know (*ginosko*) - to become acquainted with.
- B. Verse 2: zeal (*zelos*) - fervour of spirit, defending anything, the fierceness of indignation, punitive zeal. Compare this to current-day Islamic extremists.

1. Why did Paul suddenly start talking about Israel (Romans 11:25)?
2. Were only Jews saved in the Old Testament?
 - a. What about Rahab (Joshua 6:23-25)?
 - b. What about the people of Nineveh (Jonah 3:3-10)?
3. Why were the Jews so jealous for God, even if their jealousy was in the wrong way?

- C. The Jews zeal did not impress the Lord. They were looking for the wrong kind of Messiah.
- D. Verse 2: knowledge (*epignosis*) - used in the NT of the knowledge of things ethical and divine.
- E. They had the wrong kind of knowledge and exercised the wrong kind of zeal (Romans 9:30-33).
- F. Are we looking for the wrong kind of Messiah?
- G. Israel and the church are not the same.
 1. The church is not an extension of Israel.
 2. Unlike the church, Israel was not trying to reach those that are lost.
 3. Unlike Israel, the church was not given the promise of an everlasting kingdom. We may benefit from their promise, but the promise was not to us.
 4. Unlike Christians, Old Testament Jews were not indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

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III. Romans 10:5-10

- A. Verses 5-7: Our righteousness is not God's righteousness.
 - 1. Verse 5: "That the man which doeth those things shall live by them."
 - a. The Mosaic Law was a schoolmaster for the children of Israel (Galatians 3:24).
 - b. Abraham was justified by faith (James 2:21-23).
 - c. Habakkuk 2:4, "Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith."
 - 2. Verses 6-7: Do not get caught up in a foolish journey for your own righteousness. It is readily available in Christ.
- B. Verse 8: The Word is in thy mouth and heart is a picture of the Incarnation and Resurrection. In Isaiah 7:1-25, Ahaz was told to ask God for a sign that Israel would be delivered from Rezin and Pekah. Ahaz would not, so God gave the sign of a virgin who would save all of spiritual Israel forever (Isaiah 7:12-14).
- C. Verse 9: Why is Satan lost, and why will he always be lost?
 - 1. Verse 9: confess (*homologeō*) - "to declare openly, speak out freely, to profess one's self the worshipper of one, to praise, celebrate."
 - 2. Verse 9: Lord (*kurios*) - "he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master, lord, this title is given to: God, the Messiah."
 - 3. Verse 9: believe (*pisteuo*) - used in the NT of the conviction and trust to which a man is impelled by a certain inner and higher prerogative and law of soul.
 - 4. Verse 9: heart (*kardia*) - the center and seat of spiritual life, the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors.
- D. Verse 10: Matthew 6:21 says that your treasure will follow your heart, and this verse says that your conversation will also follow your heart. When you have entered into a personal relationship with the Lord, many critical areas of your life automatically change. (II Corinthians 5:17).

IV. Romans 10:11-15

- A. In verses 11-13, Paul showed that anyone can be saved. He has already shown that everyone is lost.
- B. In verses 14-15, the Christian's feet are beautiful when they present a message of deliverance from sin. This shows the importance of carrying the message.

- V. Review: How should we behave in order to be good stewards? When a person has a heart for souls, then he or she will WANT to do these things.

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- A. We will have a heart for reaching the lost by using the talents and resources that the Lord has made available to us in the way that He would have us use those talents and resources.
- B. We will want to live disciplined, intelligent, sober, righteous lives.
- C. We will want to be smart with the money in which we have been entrusted. Debt makes us slaves to the wrong master, and bad spending habits can keep us from using our finances for the Lord.
- D. We will want to live lives that will not cause others to stumble.
- E. We will want to do our best to understand how the Holy Spirit is leading us, and what He is trying to accomplish in our lives.