

**An Exposition
Of
Romans 10:9, 10
With Surrounding
Context Of
Romans, Chapter
10,
With Comments on
Matthew 10:32, 33**

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Romans 10:9, 10 & Matthew 10:32, 22

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Romans 10:9, 10 & Matthew 10:32, 33

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Question:

Dr. Younce: I go to church almost every Sunday. At the end of the preaching, the pastor invites whoever wants to be saved to slip out of their seats and come forward to receive Christ as their Savior. He then quotes Romans 10:9,10 as a requirement for salvation. This is a good-sized church and some have responded. Honestly, Pastor Younce, I am embarrassed to do what he asks. Does my refusal to stand before all these people condemn me to Hell? I really need an explanation of these verses.

Answer:

This person's question is not isolated, as I have been questioned hundreds of times about these two verses during my 42 years as a pastor.

I will quote the two verses in question:

“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. (V.9)

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10)

I. Introduction.

One thing you never do is to take a verse and isolate it from the context of the other verses and present it as Bible doctrine. You also research all other verses that pertain to the verse in question to see that no verses contradict each other. If no contradiction is found, you have the correct interpretation. If a contradiction is found, then you have a false doctrine. You must always read the surrounding verses which are in the context.

In Romans 10:9, 10, the text is concerning salvation. The context is the defining information which amplifies and clarifies the meaning of the text. The context is found in Romans 10:1-8.

1. Romans 10:1:

“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”

We will see the reason the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write in convicting the Jews of their self-righteousness and denying that Jesus Christ is their Messiah. We, as Americans, can certainly identify with the way the Apostle Paul *felt* when he wrote,

“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”

We, as Christians, in this once-great country of the United States of America are praying for our country to be spared; or, rather, saved from the judgment of Almighty God.

We inherited this great nation from our Founding Fathers who were led by God to write the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and other documents to guide this great country. As a result we, as Americans, felt like we were traveling in the “Cadillac of Life” down an expressway of happiness, liberty and justice for all, with freedom from our enemies.

But, it has all changed. Our President, House of Representatives, Senate, and others have forsaken God's righteousness and left this expressway. They are now traveling down the dirt road of human reasoning; guided by their own intellectual, Satanic philosophy and totally blinded to the fact that at the end of the dirt road is nothing but the garbage dump!

Yes, we are praying for new leaders that will put America back on the expressway, just as Paul was praying for his nation to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18)

"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (1 Corinthians 1:21)

2. Romans 10:2, 3.

"For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. (V.2)

"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." (Romans 10:2-3)

Paul could bear them witness because he had been practicing the same religion and was of their same nationality, a Jew.

"My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; (V.4) Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee." (Acts 26:4-5)

"For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: (V.13) And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers." (Galatians 1:13-14)

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." (Galatians 2:16)

Paul had met Christ and was convinced that He was the Jewish Messiah that had been prophesied to come. (Read Acts, Chapter 9, for the account of Paul's change of mind to accept Christ as His Savior and Messiah.) After a few days in Damascus, he went and preached Christ to the Jews (Acts 9:20) They were amazed and couldn't believe the change in Paul (V.21). He confounded the Jews by proving that Jesus (humanity) was the Very Christ (deity). "Christ" in Greek is "Christos" meaning "the Anointed; i.e., the Messiah." (V.22) In Verses 23,24, these religious Jews planned to kill Paul.

Christ encountered these same self-righteous Pharisees and told them to their face how hypocritical they were.

"And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." (Luke 16:15)

"And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:" (Luke 18:9)

They celebrated the various feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles. (Leviticus, Chapter 23) Their main

feast was that of Passover and Unleavened Bread, which were two feasts in one that lasted eight days. (Leviticus 23:5,6).

Hundreds of thousands came long distances, which made it impossible to bring their live sacrifices for their offerings. The priests made a lucrative business by selling the lambs, doves, and oxen to these worshippers, at a huge, astronomical profit! They were dishonest thieves and pretenders hiding under the camouflage of religion. Christ drove them out of the Temple on two different occasions.

The first time is John 2:14 as they were selling oxen, sheep and doves. The second time is found in Matthew 21:12, 13, when Jesus cleaned out the Temple again of these religious parasites.

“And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, (V.12) And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.” (Matthew 21:12-13)

All of these religious activities were to convince the people how righteous they were in worshipping God. Therefore, they could fleece the innocent out of their money to fill their own coffers.

There are approximately 720 laws given to Israel for the priests to teach the people. These were of little interest to the priests, as they were guilty of ignoring and breaking most of them themselves. Almost all people love to celebrate certain days of an event. It makes them feel good as if they are doing something in their zeal concerning God; BUT, “not according to knowledge.” That knowledge is God’s Word written to everyone, as contained in the Bible. They refused to accept the true knowledge concerning Jesus Christ as their Messiah, proven by His Resurrection approximately 25 years prior to Paul’s writing the Epistle of Romans.

“(Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) (V.2) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; (V.3) And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:” (Romans 1:2-4)

Whenever leaders are in love with themselves, spiritually or secularly, you will find that they are blinded to God’s Word and the feelings of the people.

3. Romans 10:4:

“For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”

The 720 laws of God to Israel demanded perfect obedience. If there is only one sin that is committed by a person, it excludes that person from Heaven; as there is no sin in Heaven.

“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.” (James 2:10)

Without a law of any kind, there is nothing to say that anything is wrong.

“Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, *there is* no transgression.” (Romans 4:15)

“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.” (Romans 3:20)

Christ fulfilled the law, being perfect without sin.

“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.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Since there is no sin in Heaven, one must be absolutely sinless to enter, which is impossible for all humanity.

“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

The “glory of God” is His absolute perfection. When any person accepts Jesus Christ by faith, believing that He went to the hell of the Cross to pay for their sin so they would not have to go to a literal Hell (the Lake of Fire) to pay for their own, they are saved for all Eternity. The moment one believes in Christ, an exchange takes place immediately. The eternal payment for our sins are acknowledged as “Paid in full” by Christ’s Crucifixion and Resurrection. Included in this exchange is that God puts to our account the righteousness of Jesus Christ, which we could never attain ourselves.

“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.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

4. Romans 10:5.

“For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.” (Romans 10:5)

These Jewish men in New Testament times were called scribes and were the students and interpreters of the Old Testament Scriptures. They would be like our college professors of Theology today and were held in high esteem by the people. They were avowed opponents of Christ and were publicly denounced by Him for making the Word of God of none effect by their traditions.

The Pharisees. They arose in the time of the Maccabees and were called Separatists because they separated themselves from the ambitious political parties in their nation. They were the exponents and guardians of the written and oral law and they were the so-called “conservatives.” Their religious orthodoxy was spiritually empty; therefore, they were pretenders instead of defenders of their true Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. As a result, they revealed themselves to the condemnation of Christ.

“And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault.” (Mark 7:2)

“Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?” (Mark 7:5)

“He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias (i.e. Isaiah) prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from me.” (Mark 7:5-6)

“Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.” (Mark 7:7)

“And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.” (Mark 7:9)

You may recall in Matthew, Chapter 2, when Herod the King wanted to know where Christ was to be born, he gathered the scribes and chief priests for the answer. They knew the Old Testament prophecies well concerning Christ, and answered immediately.

“And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,” (Matthew 2:5)

In Matthew 23:1, 2, 4, 5, 6 is a reference to what Paul was addressing concerning the Jews in Romans 10:5.

“Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, (V.1) Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:” (Matthew 23:1-2)

“For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers.” (Matthew 23:4)

“But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,” (Matthew 23:4-5)

“And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,” (Matthew 23:6)

5. Romans 10:6,7.

“But 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*;) (V.6) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)” (Romans 10:6-7)

Paul is speaking as any Christian witnessing to a Jewish person, or any unbeliever, that Jesus Christ has already come. These Jews were advised in Verse 6 to “Say not” that is, “Quit blabbing your smart-aleck mouth, denying that He was ever here. Then, projecting an arrogant answer of “Who is going to Heaven and bring Christ down here?” In other words, “If He was here, He never rose from the dead,” or “Who is going down to the “deep” and bring Him, and resurrect Him to life again?”

Note: “Deep” is the Greek “abussos,” our English is “abyss.” It is translated “bottomless” pit seven times in Revelation. Their demented minds thought of Christ as counterfeit and was in the bottomless pit with the lost. Paul, in Verse 6, had told them to quit saying these things that are in your heart (i.e., your conscience) as you are wrong, and need to change your thinking.

6. Romans 10:8.

“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;” (Romans 10:8)

This verse sums up the fact that these Jews have heard the truth that Jesus Christ is their Messiah, and faith in His death and Resurrection is their only assurance of eternal life. It had penetrated their conscience (heart) and their mouth. Someone may ask, “How did it enter their conscience and come out of their mouth, when they did not believe?” The fact is, these Jews were confessing to the people NOT to believe in this man called Jesus. You cannot reject something until there is something to reject!

The scribes, Pharisees, and other Jews were trying to persuade the people not to believe that this Jesus was the Messiah. In doing so, the people heard the truth Paul preached by faith to the unbelievers. When they witnessed that Jesus Christ was NOT the Messiah; in denying the truth, they had presented the truth, to which they denied. Therefore, these listeners had heard the truth that Christ was the Messiah from the mouth of these unbelievers. This explains why Paul had said, “The word of faith which we preach” is “in thy mouth and in thy heart.”

The whole world had heard about Jesus Christ. Three years Christ had walked among the people declaring who He was. After His Resurrection, he appeared alive for one month

and ten days before ascending back to Heaven. His mission was completed. Paul, writing to those in Corinth, describes a few of the multitudes who had seen Him alive after His Resurrection.

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; (V.3) And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: (V.4) And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: (V.5) After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. (V.6) After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.” (1 Corinthians 15:3-7)

Nothing like this had ever happened since mankind was created. In some towns, something new will leave the starting line and be ten miles down the road before the truth can get its track shoes on!

- a. “First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.” (Romans 1:8)
- b. “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared TO ALL MEN,” (Titus 2:11)
- c. “But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into ALL THE EARTH, and their words unto the ENDS OF THE WORLD.” (Romans 10:18)
- d. “For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; (V.5) Which is come unto you, as *it is* IN ALL THE WORLD; and bringeth forth fruit, as *it doth* also in you, since the day ye heard *of it*, and knew the grace of God in truth:” (Colossians 1:5-6)
- e. “If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached TO EVERY CREATURE which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;” (Colossians 1:23)

7. Romans 10:1-8.

The first eight verses may be summed up this way. We need to remember that Paul’s Epistle to the Romans was written about 25 years after Christ’s Ascension back to Heaven. Ten days later was the Feast of Pentecost (Feast of Weeks). All male Jews, who were physically able and ceremonially clean, were to come to Jerusalem three times in a year to celebrate three feasts. They were Pentecost, Feast of Tabernacles, and the Passover Feast (Ex. 23:14-17).

On these feast days, Jews came from all over, not counting the wives and children who were able. Acts 2:8-11 will give you an idea of how many places far and wide that these Jews came from to worship on the day of Pentecost.

“And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? (V.8) Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, (V.9) Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, (V.10) Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.” (Acts 2:8-11)

After Peter had spoken on Pentecost, about 3,000 were saved.

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.” (Acts 2:41)

A short time later, through the witnessing of Peter and John, about 5,000 men got saved.

“Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.” (Acts 4:4)

This was only a hand-full of saved Jews compared to the hundreds of thousands which composed the nation of Israel. Matthew 7:14 describes not only the Jews; but, also the Gentiles.

“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matthew 7:14)

Paul, in Romans, addresses the Jews in the past in Chapter 9, the Jews in the present in Chapter 10, and their future in Chapter 11.

Many of these Jews in Rome that Paul was addressing had been in Jerusalem for the great Feast of Pentecost 25 years earlier. They could have witnessed the Crucifixion and Resurrection of their Messiah. They could have seen Christ alive and well in the 40 days He appeared after His Resurrection.

- Paul was trying to reason with his kinsmen, the Jews, to accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah. He hoped to get at least a few to see the truth.
- They were confessing all the lies they could to discredit the truth concerning Christ.

Paul is now ready in Verses 9 and 10 to tell them what they need to confess concerning Jesus Christ.

II. Instruction (V.9).

1. Romans 10:9.

“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.” (Romans 10:9)

This verse has been grossly misinterpreted, taken out of context, misapplied, and inherited by tradition by many churches. Their philosophy is that you must confess your faith in Christ, in order to be saved. Therefore, they are invited at the invitation to come forward to accept AND confess Christ as their Savior in front of the church as a condition and assurance of their salvation.

Now let us examine the first part of Verse 9.

“...if thou (Israel) shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord (Gr. KURIOS) Jesus...

The “if” is their choice to confess a change of mind towards Jesus, that He is God in human flesh.

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” (1 Timothy 3:16)

“The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.” (John 10:33)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the WORD WAS GOD.” (John 1:1)

“And the WORD WAS MADE FLESH, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

The Septuagint was translated (in round figures) somewhere between 250 and 150 B.C.

It is very interesting that when the Septuagint translated the Old Testament into Greek from the Hebrew, they needed a Greek word for “Jehovah.” They chose the Greek “KURIOS” for the personal name of God in the Old Testament. The KJT makes a wonderful distinction concerning God’s personal name by translating it all in capital letters. The Greek “KURIOS” is God’s personal name in the Greek translation of the Septuagint.

It is used in Romans 10:9 as they “confessed with thy mouth the **God** (Gr. “KURIOS”) Jesus” or, it could be translated that they were now confessing that Jesus is God in human flesh as the Bible teaches.

Believing this alone does not save. Therefore, Paul states in the last part of Verse 9, what is required and completed by Christ, for you to be saved from eternal damnation.

“...and shalt believe in thine heart (the conscience) that GOD HATH RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, thou shalt be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

Now, if they would confess, not only that Jesus is truly God in human flesh; but, also that He was crucified and raised from the dead, they would be trusting by faith that Christ had paid for their sins. (Salvation) Therefore, now “if thou shalt confess with thy mouth,” i.e. to the lost Jew or Gentile, it would be to win others to Christ. (Service)

When they confessed this message in Verse 9 to the lost in hope that the lost would receive Jesus Christ as their Messiah and Savior (the same as they had), it was evidence they were saved.

Note: The Error: Confessing Christ as our Savior is never a condition to receive eternal life. In other words, if I were at a church, I should be able to hear a clear Bible message that Jesus Christ paid for all my sins, and all I have to do is accept His payment by faith and I will receive eternal life. One must remember that confession is a work of the flesh. Anything outside of faith and/or belief is of the flesh.

“But to him that WORKETH NOT, but BELIEVETH on him that justifieth the ungodly, his FAITH is counted for righteousness.” (Romans 4:5)

For example, say I have been in church and heard the preacher quote Ephesians 2:8, 9.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: (8) Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Then, after a few days, while driving in my car, I begin thinking about my eternity and what the preacher said concerning salvation; that it was not of works BUT faith in what Christ has done on the Cross. I remember him reading John 3:16. I remember what the verse says,

- a. “God loved the world...” “Hey, that’s me, too.”
- b. “that he gave his only begotten Son...” “Hey, that’s me! He died on the Cross for me!”
- c. “that whosoever believeth in him...” “Hey, that’s me, again! I believe in Him as my Saviour.”

- d. “should not perish, but have everlasting life.” “Hey, that’s me.” What a peace to know that I will never spend eternity in Hell paying for my sins as Jesus did it for me on the Cross.

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:” (Romans 5:1)

Now, remember, I am in my car alone and there is no one to confess to that I have trusted Jesus Christ as my Savior.

I know a pastor where a certain man and wife came to church. The pastor led the wife to Jesus Christ. She then told her husband about trusting Christ as her Savior. His reply was that, “I was saved a long time ago.” She asked him why he had never told her before.

Confession is never a condition to be saved. Yet, preachers continually use Romans 10:9 as a condition for salvation.

After all the foregoing, Verse 9 can be summed up very simply. In Verses 1 to 8 of Chapter 10, Paul is witnessing to his kinfolk, the Jews. They accused Christ of blasphemy. (Luke 5:20, 21); of being part of Satan’s troops (Matthew 9:34); of breaking the Law (Matthew 12:1, 2); and wanted to destroy Him (Matthew 12:14).

During the three years of Christ’s personal ministry, the Jews belittled Him as a phony, a false teacher, a false Messiah, confessing everywhere to the people that He was not the Son of God.

Again, in Verses 1 to 8, Paul was hoping his testimony would produce at least some believers. Paul hoped that instead of blaspheming Christ with their mouth, the Jews could now confess Christ to the Jewish people “with their mouth” that He WAS God in human flesh. (Lord is Gr. “KURIOS, God” as “Jesus” is His humanity) “...and believe in thine (their) heart(s) (conscience) that God hath raised him from the dead (Resurrection), thou shalt be saved.”

They were not saved as a result of their confession. They were already saved. What they confessed for others to believe was a testimony of what they had already believed. The element of confessing never saved anyone. It was the substance of faith in what they had already believed and were confessing that gave them salvation. They were not confessing to BE saved, as they had already BEEN saved by believing the message they were now confessing. Those who believed their witnessing would be saved also.

I cannot find anywhere where confession, or profession, is required as a condition to obtain eternal life. Paul, in Romans 10:1-8, is witnessing to the Jews, following exactly the same advice he gives to all Christians in 1 Timothy 6:12.

“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.” (1 Timothy 6:12)

III. Instruction (V.10).

“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:10)

This verse, along with Verse 9, has been adopted in many denominations also as a condition to be saved. Faith and confession have been melted together by the invitation as such given. “If you want to be saved, just slip out of your seat and come to the front of the church and our personal workers will confer with you.”

Verse 10 includes First, your salvation; and, Second, your testimony.

1. **First – Salvation. (Romans 10:10a)**

“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness;...(Romans 10:10a)

First, the “heart” is the seat of your conscience. Our soul is the seat of our emotions and appetites. Our spirit is the seat of our intelligence. A person has an appetite to know the truth. Should that person hear the Gospel, the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ as complete payment for their sin, the person believes the truth and receives eternal life. Sins, past, present, and future are eternally paid for by Christ. At the same time, that person has placed to his account the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Period!

“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.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

2. **Second – The Christian’s Testimony. (Romans 10:10b).**

“...and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:10b)

“Confession” is the Greek “HOMOLOGEO” and can be defined as: acknowledgment by confession in the attitude of giving thanks. (Strong’s Concordance).

Again, remember, confession is never a requirement for salvation. The word “and” includes something else. In other words, after you are saved by believing the Gospel; and with your mouth confess that to others, your witnessing is “made unto salvation” to others! The reason is stated in Verse 17.

“So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17).

Your witnessing of the truth is “made unto salvation” to the listeners. Some will believe. Some will not. Your responsibility has been fulfilled.

3. The following are only a few of the verses that refute confession as a requirement for salvation:

- a. “Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:” (Romans 3:22)
- b. “To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.” (Romans 3:26)
- c. “Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.” (Romans 3:20)
- d. “Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.” (Romans 4:4-5)
- e. “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:” (Romans 5:1)
- f. “Wherefore? Because *they sought it* not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;” (Romans 9:32)
- g. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
(John 3:16)
- h. “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.”

(John 3:36)

IV. Romans 10:11.

“For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.” (Romans 10:11)

Next, we will continue with Verse 11. I want to show the difference in “confess” or “confession” concerning the words “should,” a free will; and “shall,” absolutely with no free will. In Verse 11, “shall not” should have been translated as “should not” as the following will indicate.

1. “Shall” Is An Absolute – No Free Will.

“But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we SHALL all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. (10) For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee SHALL bow to me, and every tongue SHALL confess to God. (11) So then every one of us SHALL give account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:10-12)

Notice that “shall” is in the absolute which means you have no choice to disobey. “Shall” is used 4 times in these verses. This is in reference to the Judgment Seat of Christ which takes place in Heaven after the Rapture for every Christian, with no exceptions.

2. “Should Not” – Free Will

“Should not” contains the free will to obey (not ashamed of Christ); or not to obey (ashamed of Christ).

“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;” (2 Timothy 1:8)

“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” (2 Timothy 1:12)

Now in 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15 we find the word “should” which indicates God’s will for the Christian. The word grants the Christian a free will to obey God’s Word; or, his fleshly desire to disobey, for whatever reason.

“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: (14) And *that* he died for all, that they which live SHOULD not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

Note: The Greek word “mello” is the same for “should” and “shall.” Therefore, the translation of which word should be used depends upon what it refers to in the sentence or context. To verify the foregoing, allow me to quote from *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*.

“The gr. “Mello” is used of purpose, certainty, compulsion or necessity. It is rendered simply by “shall” or “should.”

3. Romans 9:33 and Romans 10:11

I am going to point out two cases where the translators used “shall” instead of “should” which would involve a false doctrine. The two verses are Romans 9:33 and 10:11.

a. Romans 9:33

“As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him SHALL not be ashamed.” (Romans 9:33)

“For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him SHALL not be ashamed.” (Romans 10:11)

Notice in 9:33 the words “whosoever believeth on him (Christ) SHALL NOT be ashamed,” Using “shall not” in the absolute with no exceptions. This means that every Christian will never be ashamed to be called a Christian; or, at any time, be ashamed to witness for Christ. In other words, if there was ever one time they were ashamed, it would be proof they were not a Christian according to the translation of “shall not.” “Shall not” leaves no free will to ever disobey the Lord.

b. Notice in Romans 10:11.

“For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him (Christ) SHALL NOT be ashamed.” (Romans 10:11)

The same error of translation here has the same results as stated above. “Should not” is the correct translation. The reason I brought this to the surface is because it would endorse the damnable doctrine of Lordship Salvation. In other words, their famous false statement is, “If Christ is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all.” Satan loves it!

4. Isaiah 28:16 and 1 Peter 2:6.

Since we are this far, we might as well examine two other verses that are mistranslated. One in the Old Testament is Isaiah 28:16 and the other is 1 Peter 2:6.

“Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner *stone*, a sure foundation: he that believeth SHALL NOT make haste.” (Isaiah 28:16)

“Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him SHALL NOT be confounded.” (1 Peter 2:6)

In both passages, “shall not” is translated wrongly and should have been translated “should not.” This mistranslation not only endorses a false doctrine of Lordship Salvation; but, also contradicts other doctrinal teachings such as the following. God knows a Christian is capable of sinning because they still possess the old nature they were born with. (1 John, Chapter 1, deals with this.)

a. Sometimes a Christian may attempt to cover up his/her sin. This will break fellowship with the Lord; but, not the Son-ship of losing their salvation. God’s answer to this person is found in Verses 6,8,10.

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:” (1 John 1:6)

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8)

“If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” (1 John 1:10)

b. Christ wants Christians to be honest with themselves and assures them of His forgiveness as stated in Verse 9.

“If we confess our sins, he (Christ) is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

- c. It is easy for the Christian to get in trouble when associating with the wrong crowd. God’s warning is given in 2 Corinthians 6:14.

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14)

Now, let us go back to 1 John, Chapter 1. When a Christian is honest with themselves and confesses their sin to Christ, they are forgiven. Now that person has the opportunity to have fellowship with the Lord, as stated in Verse 7.

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have FELLOWSHIP one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7)

“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have FELLOWSHIP with us: and truly our FELLOWSHIP *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.” (1 John 1:3)

The foregoing has been penned to show the difference between the translation of “should not,” indicative of a person’s free will; and “shall not,” in the absolute sense indicating no free will. This is all determined by what the verse is referring to so as to not contradict any other Biblical doctrine. Remember, “shall” or “should” are both from the same Greek word, “mello” translated as the context warrants.

- d. God has always given mankind (“whosoever will”) a free will to accept or reject eternal life as a bought and paid for free gift. (Refutes Predestination).

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: (8)Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

“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.” (John 3:36)

- e. God has always given a Christian the free will to serve him; or, not to serve him. This is made clear in 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. Only a Christian can build on the foundation of Christ.

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (11) Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;” (1 Corinthians 3:11-12)

A Christian has a choice to honor the Lord with his life; or, use his life to satisfy his lust of the flesh, eyes, and pride of life. (1 John 2:16). Using his life for God’s glory is valued as gold, silver and precious stones. Should he choose to live for his own achievements, they are described as wood, hay, and stubble. They will burn to ashes with no rewards. This is at the Judgment Seat of Christ in Heaven after the Rapture.

- a. In Verse 13, “the fire” is in reference to God’s Word.

“Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.” (1 Corinthians 3:13)

“*Is* not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer *that* breaketh the rock in pieces?” (Jeremiah 23:29)

- b. Verse 14 is a Christian’s rewards of “gold, silver, and precious stones.”

“If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.” (1 Corinthians 3:14)

- c. Verse 15 is a Christian’s loss of rewards—“wood, hay, and stubble.”

“If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” (1 Corinthians 3:15)

This refutes the Satanic teaching of ignorant preachers making false statements like, “If you are not serving the Lord, you are not saved,” and other similar philosophies that Satan uses. (This also refutes Predestination and Lordship Salvation.)

V. Interpretation – Romans 10:12-14.

“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.” (Romans 10:12)

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14)

The word “call” in these verses is not to obtain salvation, as those invited to call are already saved as Verse 14 states.

“How then shall they call on him (Christ) in whom they have not believed?... (Romans 10:14a)

May I also point out concerning the word “saved” in Verse 13? A lost person never has to call, or ask the Lord to save them. Their salvation is already completely paid for. You never have to ask the Lord to do something He has already done for our salvation. The Lord is asking you to come to Him by faith and receive the peace of knowing you have eternal life, and to rest in His promise that you will never experience the flames of Hell. Two verses of Scripture will substantiate this briefly.

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1)

Now that one is a Christian, they are invited to receive an additional rest and peace in their life. This invitation is given in using your life for Christ. The invitation is given in Matthew 11:29,30.

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (29) For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:29-30)

In Romans 5:1, we have received salvation and the peace with God. Now in Philippians 4:4-7 one can have the peace of God in serving Him.

“Rejoice in the Lord always: *and* again I say, Rejoice. (4)

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand. (5)

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (6)

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:4-7)

1. “Save, Saved, Call, and Ask” – Have Different Applications According to Context.

Now, after taking a brief venture down a tributary, we will return to our main concern in Verses 12 to 14. The words “save, saved, call, and ask” are used with different applications according to the context of the verse.

a. *Save From Drowning.*

Here is one of the many examples where the disciples woke up the Lord and asked Him to save them from drowning in the storm.

“And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. (24) And his disciples came to *him*, and awoke him, saying, LORD, SAVE US: we perish.” (Matthew 8:24-25)

b. *God is Rich to Give Wisdom. – James 1:5, 6.*

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ASK of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. (5) But let him ASK in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.” (James 1:5-6)

c. *“Let Your Requests Be Made Known.” – Philippians 4:6,7.*

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your REQUESTS be made known unto God. (6) And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

d. *“Whatsoever We Ask...” – 1 John 3:21,22.*

“Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God. (21) And whatsoever we ASK, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.” (1 John 3:21-22)

e. *“Ask Anything According to His Will.” – 1 John 5:14,15.*

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ASK any thing according to his will, he heareth us: (14) And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ASK, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” (1 John 5:14-15)

f. *“Come Boldly to the Lord in Time of Need.” – Hebrews 4:15, 16.*

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. (15) Let us therefore COME boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:15-16)

Note: “Saved” in Verse 13 is the Greek “sozo” and may also be translated as “deliverance” from DANGER, persecution, suffering and etc. as the context warrants.

The foregoing are only a handful of the riches that are extended to all Christians in Verse 12. It all begins with His first “rich” gift of salvation to anyone who will receive it by faith.

“But God, who is RICH in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (4) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved); (5) And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: (6) That in the ages to come he might shew the EXCEEDING RICHES of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (7) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: (8) Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:4-9)

Most every Christian has sung a very familiar song found in our Hymnals, “Count your blessings, Name them one by one, Count your many blessings, See what God hath done.”

Should each Christian practice this, it would eliminate a lot of discouragement, hopelessness, frustration, and heartache. Our previous blessings do not have to stop, unless we stop serving the Lord. Let us keep the Lord's blessings coming.

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." (1 Cor. 4:2)

"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" (1 Peter 1:7)

VI. A False and Misleading Interpretation of Romans 10:9, 10.

"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. (V.9)

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9-10)

1. Romans 10:9.

This is used in churches to invite people forward to receive Christ as their Savior.

- a. Where in this verse does it say anything about an assembly in a church? This in Verse 9 has to do with witnessing to the unbelieving Jews, as you were one of them yourself, Paul!
- b. Now, if a Jewish person has changed his mind from blaspheming to believing and now is witnessing of his, or her, faith in Jesus Christ as God in human flesh, who was crucified and resurrected as payment for his, or her sins, it was proof that they were saved.

In other words, how could any Jew confess the truth if he had not already believed the truth? This confession was not a condition to be saved, as confessing Christ is never a condition to be saved. However, the Lord would want all Christians to witness to their lost friends and relatives, just as Paul was doing, in Romans, Chapter 10.

After Paul was saved, he stated in Romans 10:17,

"So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17)

He encouraged them to do what he was doing, because he loved and had a deep concern for their eternal destiny, Heaven or Hell.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16)

- c. What about those who do not want to come forward? When I bring this up to some pastors, this is their response. "Well, if they really wanted to be saved, they would "come forward." I asked one pastor how he could read a person's mind to know if they wanted to come forward or not. His answer was, "All you want to do is argue," and walked away.

Years ago I witnessed a situation at the Life Gate Baptist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. I had heard that Dr. John R. Rice, Founder of Sword of the Lord, along with Dr. Jack Hyles of Hammond, Indiana, was speaking. I had never met Dr. Rice; but, had read many of his writings and considered him a great Bible teacher. Dr. Rice spoke in the morning service and after the service he had a long table with all of his books available. A young lady came to the table to ask Dr. Rice if there was any time he would have to give her some advice concerning a very serious problem she was facing. Right then he motioned a young

man over to his seat and left with the young lady in seconds. That left an immense impression on me that people are more important than selling books! It was my privilege to meet him.

Sunday night Dr. Jack Hyles spoke. Half-way through his message, about five or six “hippies” came in and sat about three rows up from the back. I was in the back taping the message. At the end, the invitation was given to come forward and receive Christ and salvation. After a minute or so, Dr. Hyles pointed to the “hippies” and stated they needed “to do the most manly thing they had ever done and come and receive Christ as their personal Savior.”

They looked at each other; got up and left the church. I could not believe what I was hearing. I got up and went outside and apologized to them for what Hyles did. They were completely turned off and did not want to hear anything about the Lord. Honestly, if had been in their shoes, I would have done the same thing. This wasn’t their fault. It was the preacher’s fault.

What was overlooked was that these “hippies” had a desire to come into the church and sit down and listen. Wouldn’t it have been nice if the preacher had presented salvation as a free gift, bought and paid for by the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ? At least they would have had an opportunity to trust Christ as their Savior; instead of being attacked and made to walk to the front of the church to be saved.

Down through the years, I have discussed this with various pastors and I have gotten the same response each time. “If that person really wanted to be saved, they would come forward.” My answer to them was, “When did you become as God with the ability to read inside a person’s mind? Only God knows their thinking, not you!” In other words, “Quit trying to justify yourself.”

“And needed not that any should testify of man: for he (Christ) knew what was in man (that is what he is thinking).” (John 2:25)

“... for I (Christ) know the things that come into your mind, *every one of them.*” (Ezekiel 11:5b)

There is one thing for sure, and that is, when a person comes to church it is because they want something, or they would not be there. If they are saved, they come to hear more of the Word of God. If they are not saved, they deserve the opportunity to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior. This is presented as eternal life and a home in Heaven that has been purchased by Jesus Christ with His Crucifixion and Resurrection as complete payment for a person’s sins; past, present, and future. This is offered to anyone in attendance as a free gift, bought and paid for by Jesus Christ, and all you have to do is to receive it by faith.

a. “...you will never perish (synonym for Hell), but have everlasting life...”

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever BELIEVETH in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

b. You received eternal life as a FREE GIFT, bought and paid for.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the GIFT OF GOD: (8) Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8,9)

c. You can KNOW and never have a doubt about your ETERNAL LIFE.

“These things have I written unto you that BELIEVE on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have ETERNAL LIFE, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” (1 John 5:13)

d. Your future home is in Heaven when you leave your earthly home.

“For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, ETERNAL IN THE HEAVENS.”
(2 Corinthians 5:1)

Note: In summary: using Romans 10:9-14 as an invitation to come forward to the front of a church to receive Christ is nothing but an inherited TRADITION. It is an absolute perversion of the text and context of Romans, Chapter 10. I have sat many times in a church as the pastor would have everyone stand at the invitation and sing the familiar invitation song, “Just as I am without one plea.” I thought “just as I am” meant sitting right where you are; not coming to the front of a church in front of all those people.

Then, as we sang “Without one plea,” the pastor spent the next several minutes pleading with the unsaved to come forward. This seemed to me like we were singing a song that said one thing and the preacher was pleading the opposite. I am the type of person who likes to reason things out. In other words, when common sense makes good sense, seek no other sense! And this did not make good sense to me at all. Why were we singing one thing and the preacher was asking the unsaved to do the opposite to be saved?

The untold truth is hardly ever recognized or brought to light concerning the lost who come to church and are then urged to leave their seat and stand before the whole congregation to receive Christ as their Savior. They refused to obey the pastor’s tradition and perversion of the Scriptures concerning Romans 10:9,10, and left the church the same way they came in—lost, on their way to Hell!

VII. Romans 10:15-21.

1. Romans 10:15

“And how shall they preach, except they be sent?⁹ as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”
(Romans 10:15)

The word “PREACH” is the Greek “herusso” and is also translated “proclaim, publish, and etc. Here he quotes Isaiah 52:7 as Isaiah had proclaimed the same to the forefathers of the Jewish people that Paul was now addressing. In other words, as Isaiah had published the good news of salvation to Israel in the past, Paul was now proclaiming the salvation message at the present and future, found only in their Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Romans 10:15b – Who Is Sent?

Who is sent to preach; or, rather, proclaim the Gospel of our salvation to the lost? Every Christian.

THE PROGRAM:

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem (Walnut Grove), and in all Judaea (Minnesota), and in Samaria (the United States), and unto the uttermost part of the earth (the world).” (Acts 1:8)

THE PROCESSION:

“Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.” (Matthew 28:16)

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” (Matthew 28:18)

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:” (Matthew 28:18-19)

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:20)

The word “TEACH” in Verse 19 is a translation of the Greek word “mathetes” and means “make disciples of” all nations. You are to lead them to the Lord, trusting Christ as their Savior before you baptize them. Baptism never gives anyone salvation; but, is a testimony they are already saved by FAITH.

The word “TEACH” in Verse 20 is a different Greek word, “didasko,” and means simply “to teach, or a teacher. This is the responsibility of every Christian to say, as the Apostle Paul in Romans 1:16.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

3. Romans 10:16.

“But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?” (Romans 10:16)

Here Paul quotes Isaiah 53:1, reminding the Jews that Isaiah had the same problem with their forefathers as he was having with them. This is a good lesson for Christians, not to be discouraged when the multitude rejects your testimony that Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven. He is the only One who has paid for their sins by His Crucifixion and Resurrections. Denominations mean nothing to God, as they are all founded by individuals.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. (13) Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14)

The word “FEW” in Verse 14 is the Greek “oligos,” and when it is used in reference to numbers it denotes “few, little, small, and slight.” The word “FIND” in the same verse is the Greek “Heuros,” and means “to get, obtain, see and perceive.” In other words, their minds were blinded by Satan. Only a very few will believe the truth and be saved.

“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” (2 Corinthians 4:4)

“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (14) Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” (2 Corinthians 11:14-15)

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)

4. Romans 10:17.

“So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

In Psalm 138:2 are recorded the following words which are very interesting and profound.

“...for thou (LORD) hast magnified thy WORD above all thy NAME.”

The reason is that, no one would know God’s name if it was not written in His Word given to mankind, i.e., the Bible. His Name is declared in Isaiah 42:8 and Psalm 83:18.

“I *am* the LORD (Hebrew – Jehovah): that *is* my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.” (Isaiah 42:8)

“That *men* may know that thou, whose name alone *is* JEHOVAH, *art* the most high over all the earth.” (Psalm 83:18)

As Christians, we are “AMBASSADORS for Christ.” (2 Corinthians 5:20). Just as God has sent Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for the sins of all mankind via His Crucifixion and Resurrection; Jesus sends the Christians to the lost to present salvation as a free gift, bought and paid for by Jesus Christ.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: (8) Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8,9)

Christ’s words in John 20:21 are appropriate.

“Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, EVEN SO SEND I YOU.” (John 20:21)

A Christian is either ashamed to witness for Christ, therefore seeking to be popular with the crowd, known as a “Secret Service” Christian; or, they will be an ambassador, seeking to win the lost. Paul describes where he stands in testifying to the Ephesians in 6:19, 20, and to those in Rome in Romans 1:16.

“And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, (19) For which I am an AMBASSADOR in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” (Ephesians 6:19-20)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

Every Christian should be eternally thankful for the Christian who led them to Christ. You see, they loved them more than being popular with the worldly crowd.

The Christian is warned there will be satanic opposition as Peter wrote in 1 Peter 4:12-14, 16.

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: (12) But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. (13) If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.” (1 Peter 4:12-14)

“Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.” (1 Peter 4:16)

“That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; (14) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:” (Ephesians 4:14-15)

5. Romans 10:18.

“But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.” (Romans 10:18)

“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.” (Romans 1:8)

In Colossians 1:23, the Holy Spirit wanted every person in the future to know that in the First Century, A.D. every person had heard the Gospel. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to make this known as Verse 23 states.

“If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;” (Colossians 1:23)

Note: The Apostle Paul did not accomplish this by himself. Read Romans 16:1-16 to see how gracious and loving Paul was to acknowledge others who were doing a wonderful service for their wonderful Savior.

In Romans 16:17,18, the Lord instructs the Christian how they should deal with those ministers of Satan who are always trying to cause division and offences that are contrary to God’s Word, the Bible.

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. (17)

For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.” (Romans 16:17-18)

“This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;” (Titus 1:13)

6. Romans 10:19, 20.

“But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by *them that are* no people, *and* by a foolish nation I will anger you. (19) But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.” (Romans 10:19-20)

About 22 years ago, my wife and I came to Walnut Grove, Minnesota, to visit a friend. I went out one afternoon for about four and a half hours, passing out salvation tracts and trying to talk to people about how they could know for sure they go to Heaven when they died. Of the many answers I received, here are a few:

- a. “I’m a Catholic and I belong to the only true church.”
- b. “I am trying to live for God and He is not going to send me to Hell.”
- c. “I have been baptized and my preacher said that gave me eternal life.”
- d. “I don’t talk about politics or religion.”
- e. “I have my own religion and I am satisfied with that.”
- f. “I go to church every Sunday and I don’t want to hear another sermon from you.”
- g. “This area is 90% Lutherans and Catholics, and don’t tell me our grandfathers, grandmothers, mothers and dads have raised us wrong. These people love their parents and know they wouldn’t raise us wrong. We are satisfied with our religion and we don’t want a stranger telling us, as you are, that we are not saved!”
- h. “Don’t tell me that good works will not get me to Heaven. God would not send a good person to Hell.”

I did not find one person who was going to Heaven by faith in Jesus Christ as payment for their sin. I am speaking of only those I had witnessed to in the immediate area. To me, this seemed like Satan's paradise where he had built a prison, filling it with lost people who had fallen prey to his ministers. They had indoctrinated them with a religion of good works and self-righteousness and would be assured of eternal life and a home in Heaven by their baptism.

“For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. (13) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (14) Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

Walnut Grove had a Methodist, Catholic, and two Lutheran churches of the same organization. This was the ELCA, or, Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America. I couldn't believe that this little town of approximately 500-580 people had two churches of the same organization here.

The ELCA teaches Luther's philosophy as stated in his Catechism, “What does Baptism do?” His answer. “It makes you a child of God, it frees you from the Devil, and gives you Eternal Life.”

To me, it appeared Satan wasn't taking any chances for any of his children in escaping the prison of Baptism for salvation. He doubled his security with two churches, instead of one.

My thoughts were, “What a mission field.” I thought the people would be so happy to hear that eternal life was a free gift, purchased and paid for by the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, plus nothing.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:(8) Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

The burden was overwhelming. In 1992, 22 years ago as of this writing, I resigned our church, moved to Walnut Grove, bought a home and started a Bible study there. We were not in town very long until it was all over that we were a cult church. Our church name is “Heritage Baptist Bible Church.” I started a half-hour radio broadcast 22 years ago and it is still active every Sunday morning from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. This reaches three states: Northern Iowa, South Dakota, and Minnesota.

Shortly after our arrival, one of the leading board members of the ELCA Lutheran church told me personally that “they would have us out of town in six months, as they didn't want our kind of people around here.” Sometime later, this man died a very untimely death in a grain bin accident. His church is located one block from our house.

Nothing has changed in human nature from Adam to our present time. Romans 10:19 is a quote from Deuteronomy 32:21 where Moses was God's spokesman to Israel. We can see a practical illustration today from Verse 19.

1. “But I say did not Israel know?” Yes, they did, and so did this area prior to our coming. There had been a Baptist church here a few years prior, preaching the same message that salvation was only by faith in Jesus Christ's payment on the cross for our sin.

Sad to say, a Diotrefes, one of Satan's destroyers started attending the church and spreading his discord among the people. This church no longer exists. For the sake of those who may not be aware of this man and many like him, John exposes him in 3 John, Verses 9-11.

“I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. (9) Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth *them* out of the church. (10) Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.” (3 John 1:9-11)

2. I can see another practical illustration from Romans 10:19b.

“...I will provoke you to jealousy by *them* (the Gentiles) *that are* no people (Israel), *and* by a foolish nation (Gentiles) I will anger (representing the strongest of all passions) you (Israel).” (Romans 10:19)

The word “jealousy” here is the Greek “ZELOS” and is used intensively. In Romans 13:13 it is translated “envying.” It is also translated in Acts 5:17 as “indignation.”

When we started our church in Walnut Grove, I was told by various folks that the area was 90-95% Lutherans and Catholics. Since hardly anyone would listen to anything that contradicted their religion, I decided I would go to the drug addicts and put the Bible teaching on the air. I was soon to experience what Moses and the Apostle Paul experienced by preaching the Bible which exposed the philosophy of these man-made religions.

The first drug addict I won to the Lord was a young man who came to church and started out witnessing to his family and friends. I asked him to let me know whenever he knew of a “pot” party was going on, as I would go there.

The first one I went to, all the blinds were pulled. I knocked on the door and this giant raised the blind and yelled “Who in the Hell are you and what do you want?” He looked like Goliath. I swear he was about 300 lbs. I thought what in the world have I got myself into? I introduced myself and he replied, hurriedly, “Get lost now and come back Monday if you want to.” I wasted no time in heeding his request. I went back Monday with no idea what was going to happen.

I will briefly relate the outcome. He invited me in and was as polite and kind as anyone could be. We drank coffee for two hours or so, and during that time he trusted Jesus Christ as his Savior. Before I left he knew for sure he had a home in Heaven waiting for him when the time should come.

I will never forget what he told me. He said, “All I have ever heard was that I had to quit doing all my bad habits, then God would accept me. Never had anyone told me that eternal life was a free gift bought and paid for by Jesus Christ’ death and Crucifixion and offered to everyone.”

Now, go back to #2 and Romans 10:19b. As God spoke through Moses to the people of Israel, he told Moses what reception he would receive. His going to the Gentiles would incite the Jews to be jealous, angry, envying and indignant.

It wasn’t long until the gossip was all over the area that Pastor Younce was seen at this drug house! It was related to me that people were gossiping about whether Pastor Younce was using or buying drugs. I experienced what God and Moses received: jealousy, anger, envying, and indignation.

Human nature has never changed. Since Catholicism and Lutheranism both state in their Catechisms that baptism gives you eternal life. They have been indoctrinated with this philosophy as a child by their parents. Anything contrary to this religion would generate one of two things. They would be angry and hate you; or, trust Jesus Christ as their payment for sin and have God’s assurance of eternal life and a home in Heaven.

Paul, in addressing his people, the Jews (Romans 10:1) quoted Deuteronomy 32:21 to enlighten them that they have rejected God's Word, as their forefathers as described in Deuteronomy by Moses. We have the same today as Moses and Paul experienced.

Yes, there is a very practical application today as I have experienced the same thing in this area concerning Gentiles, instead of Jews.

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: (13) Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14)

- a. The many in Verse 13 is the majority that will spend eternity in Hell.
- b. The few in Verse 14 is the Greek “oligos” and means “slight amount, little amount, and few” who will go to Heaven to be with the Lord.
- c. The strait gate is Jesus Christ and His death and Resurrection.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)

- d. The enemy is Satan.

“In whom the god of this world (Satan) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” (2 Corinthians 4:4)

Now, within 22 years things have changed to some extent. There are some very nice people in Walnut Grove and the surrounding area. We have friends in both; and some have trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior by His crucifixion and Resurrection as payment for their sins.

IX. Romans 10:21. God Does Not Give Up On People.

“But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.” (Romans 10:21)

God had sent many prophets unto Israel warning them to turn and worship their true God, Jehovah. Many individual Jews and Gentiles have been saved. At the time of Pentecost, in Acts 2:41, about 3,000 were saved as a result of Peter's preaching. A short time later in Acts 4:4, there were about 5,000 men who were saved. In Acts 2:8-11, there were about 15 different nationalities from many areas who had flooded into Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. This is only a hand full compared to the hundreds of thousands in attendance for the Feast of Pentecost.

We can apply a practical illustration for Christians today. Never give up on anyone, no matter how they have lived or what they have done. As long as a person is alive and can hear and understand that Jesus Christ paid for all their sins, they can be saved on their death bed.

I have experienced this several times in 42 years as a pastor. Allow me to relate just one as an example. This man's son and his wife were members of our church. His son called me one day and stated his father was at home, close to dying and a hospice nurse was with him 24 hours. He related that he had for years tried to talk to his father about the Lord; but to no avail. He asked me if I would try one more time before he died. He told me not to be offended if he refused to see me as he hates preachers.

I went to see him and the hospice nurse told him who I was and returned to the door and told me to “Come on in, as he would be glad to see me.” I was really surprised as I really

did not expect to get in. I spent over an hour and a half with him. He was very receptive, kind, and thanked me several times for coming.

He trusted Jesus Christ as his Savior and I described to him about the wonderful things he would see in Heaven. One thing he said to me. "My son and wonderful daughter-in-law will come up to be with me when it's time and we will be together forever." I prayed with him before I left, thanking the Lord for loving us, paying for our sins on the Cross, and giving us a heavenly home for all eternity.

A couple of days later he met the Lord personally.

This reminds me of an old saying. "There are no atheists in foxholes." The change in this man's attitude while lying on his death bed, extracts a little bit of truth out of that old saying.

X. A Brief Explanation Concerning Matthew, Chapter 10, Verses 32 and 33.

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. (32)

But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 10:32-33)

These two verses are also often quoted and used to invite people to come forward in church. In examining the context of these two verses, we will find that they are speaking of service and rewards, or loss of rewards; not salvation.

1. The Context of Matthew 10:32,33.

"And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. (1)

Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; (2)

Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; (3)

Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him. (4)

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: (5)

But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (6)

And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. (7)

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:1-8)

- a. (Verses 1-5) Those sent to witness were the 12 Apostles and were saved with one exception, Judas Iscariot, a counterfeit. They were later called the Eleven.
- b. (Verses 5, 6) They were to witness to the Jews, not the Gentiles.
- c. (Verse 7) Their message was concerning the Kingdom, as King Jesus was here.
- d. (Verse 8) They were empowered supernaturally as proof of their message.
- e. "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." (Matthew 10:16)

- f. (Verses 17-31) These verses describe the opposition they would face.
- g. (Verses 32-33) These verses show confession is for their faithfulness and rewards. Unfaithfulness warrants no rewards.
- h. (Verses (40-42)
 - “He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. (40)
 - He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. (41)
 - And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.” (Matthew 10:40-42)

All of Matthew, Chapter 10, has to do with the text of serving the Lord and the context surrounding it. How anyone could extract Verses 32 and 33 and apply them to coming forward in a church? This is deceiving and confusing as confession is never a requirement for salvation!

XI. How Important It Is For the Saved TO MAKE THE GOSPEL CLEAR To the Lost.

a. Defend the Gospel. – Philippians 1:17

“But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.” (Philippians 1:17)

b. Power of the Gospel. – Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

c. The Gospel Saves. – 1 Corinthians 15:1,3,4

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;” (1 Corinthians 15:1)

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; (3)
And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

d. Paul’s Advice. – 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. (1) For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. (2) And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. (3) And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: (4) That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

e. Simplicity and Godly Sincerity. – 2 Corinthians 1:12 and 11:3.

“For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.” (2 Corinthians 1:12)

“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” (2 Corinthians 11:3)

f. Plainness of Speech. – 2 Corinthians 3:12.

“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech.” (2 Corinthians 3:12)

XII. Coming Forward in a Church Is Man’s Tradition. – Colossians 2:8 & Proverbs 30:6.

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” (Colossians 2:8)

“Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.” (Proverbs 30:6)

I hope the foregoing concerning Romans, Chapter 10, and Matthew, Chapter 10, will help some to see the importance of recognizing the truth concerning salvation; and present it to the lost as such. There are no strings attached! A person does not have to ask Jesus to save them or go forward in a church. He is asking them to receive eternal life as a free gift, bought and paid for by His Crucifixion and Resurrection, simply by FAITH!

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: (8) Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

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