



## Romans 10:5-13 (ESV)

### The Message of Salvation to All

<sup>5</sup> For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. <sup>6</sup> But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup> “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup> But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup> because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

## Romans 10:5-13 (HCSB)

<sup>5</sup> For Moses writes about the righteousness that is from the law: The one who does these things will live by them.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>6</sup> But the righteousness that comes from faith speaks like this: Do not say in your heart, “Who will go up to heaven?”<sup>[b]</sup> that is, to bring Christ down <sup>7</sup> or, “Who will go down into the abyss?”<sup>[c]</sup> that is, to bring Christ up from the dead. <sup>8</sup> On the contrary, what does it say? The message is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.<sup>[d]</sup> This is the message of faith that we proclaim: <sup>9</sup> If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation. <sup>11</sup> Now the Scripture says, Everyone who believes on Him will not be put to shame,<sup>[e]</sup> <sup>12</sup> for there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, since the same Lord of all is rich to all who call on Him. <sup>13</sup> For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.<sup>[f]</sup>

## English Standard Version Bible - *Study Bible*<sup>1</sup>

### *Romans 10:5-13*

**10:5** Paul quotes [Lev. 18:5](#) regarding **the righteousness that is based on the law**, to show that those who keep the law will attain life. But as Paul has already shown, life will not come in this way since all violate the law ([Rom. 1:18-3:20](#)).

**10:6-8** In [vv. 6-8](#) Paul quotes [Deut. 30:12-14](#) to show the contrast between the **righteousness based on faith** and the righteousness that comes from the law. The righteousness based on faith reinterprets these OT statements and sees them now fulfilled in Christ (see note on [Deut. 30:12-14](#)). There is no need to travel to **heaven to bring Christ** to earth, for God has already sent him into the world. Nor should anyone think they must **bring Christ up from** the realm of **the dead**, for God has raised Christ from the dead. What God requires is not superhuman works but faith in the gospel Paul preaches.

**10:9-10** **If you confess with your mouth** does not mean that a spoken affirmation of one's faith is a "work" that merits justification, but such confession does give outward evidence of inward faith, and often confirms that faith to the speaker himself. **that God raised him from the dead**. Paul does not mean that people need to believe only this individual event with no understanding of Christ's death, but rather they need to believe in the resurrection along with the whole complex of truth connected with it, particularly Jesus' sin-bearing death in mankind's place, followed by his resurrection that showed God the Father's approval of Christ's work (see note on [4:25](#)). **with the heart one believes**. Saving faith is not mere intellectual agreement but deep inward trust in Christ at the core of one's being.

**10:11** Paul again cites [Isa. 28:16](#) (cf. [Rom. 9:33](#)) to emphasize that trusting in Christ (not works-righteousness) is the pathway to salvation. **Shame** here refers to the end-time humiliation that those judged on the last day will experience when they are sent to hell.

**10:12-13** God bestows his saving riches on all, both Jews and Gentiles, **who call on him**—for (as Paul quotes from [Joel 2:32](#)) **"everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."**

---

1. Lane T. Dennis, ed., *ESV Study Bible, The: English Standard Version*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Bibles, 2008), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Romans 10".

## Holman Christian Standard Bible - *Study Bible*<sup>2</sup>

### *Romans 10:5-13*

**10:5-7** Paul quoted Moses on both sides of the issue. In [Lv 18:5](#) (cp. [Gal 3:12](#)) obedience to the law brings life, but no one can keep the law and gain righteousness (as implied by Paul's citation of Moses in [v. 6](#)). Faith-based righteousness is from **Christ**. He is accessible. He died for us and was raised from the **dead**. Moses pointed out that God's revelation was accessible, and Paul quoted his words to show that Christ is accessible.

**10:8** The nearness of the message of faith is at the **heart** and **mouth** of people, just as Moses proclaimed the nearness of God's revelation.

**10:9-10** **Jesus is Lord** is a confession of faith. "Lord" is the translation of the Greek word *kurios*. This is the regular way of translating the Hebrew name for God (Yahweh) in the Greek OT (the LXX). Jesus is not only the Messiah (Gk *Christ* = Hb *Messiah*), but He is also Yahweh. Not only do we believe that the man Jesus was **raised... from the dead**, but we also believe that He shares the same nature with God. This is the start of the understanding of Christ's two natures, as articulated at the Council of Chalcedon (A.D. 451). Jesus is fully human and fully God. Christians by definition believe and confess this truth.

**10:11-13** Paul cited biblical support for the universal offer of salvation. Salvation is for both **Jew** and **Greek** (i.e., Gentiles) since the same **Lord** (Gk *kurios*, [v. 12](#)) is **rich** in mercy **to all**. The promise is for all who call on **the name of the Lord** (*kurios*, [v. 13](#)). As the prophet Joel said, "Everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh will be saved" ([Joel 2:32](#)). Jesus is Lord, or Yahweh.

## NLT Life Application Study Bible<sup>3</sup>

### *Romans 10:5-13*

**10:5** In order to be saved by the law, a person would have to live a perfect life, not sinning once. Then why did God give the law since he knew people couldn't keep it? According to Paul, one reason the law was given was to show people how guilty they are ([Galatians 3:19](#)). The law was a shadow of Christ—that is, the sacrificial system educated the people so that when the true sacrifice came, they would be able to understand his work ([Hebrews 10:1-4](#)). The system of ceremonial laws was to last until the coming of Christ. The law points to our need for a Savior.

**10:6-8** Paul adapts Moses' farewell challenge from [Deuteronomy 30:11 -14](#) to apply to Christ. Christ has provided our salvation through his incarnation (God in human form) and resurrection. God's salvation is right in front of us. He will come to us wherever we are. All we need to do is to respond and accept his gift of salvation.

**10:8-12** Have you ever been asked, "How do I become a Christian?" These verses give you the beautiful answer: Salvation is as close as your own lips and heart. People think it must be a complicated process, but it is not. If we believe in our heart and say with our mouth that Christ is the risen Lord, we will be saved.

---

2. Jeremy Royal Howard, ed., HCSB Study Bible, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2010), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Romans 10".

3. *Life Application Study Bible*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1988), WORDsearch CROSS e-book.

## Life Application Concise New Testament Commentary<sup>4</sup>

### *Romans 10:5-13*

*Salvation Is for Everyone / [10:5-21](#)*

Why did God give the law when he knew people couldn't keep it? According to Paul, one reason that the law was given was to show people how guilty they are ([Galatians 3:19](#)). In addition, the law was a shadow of Christ—that is, the sacrificial system educated the people so that when the true sacrifice came, they would be able to understand his work ([Hebrews 10:1-4](#)). The system of ceremonial laws was to last until the coming of Christ. The law points to Christ, the final sacrifice for sin, the reason for all those animal sacrifices.

**10:5** Paul quotes freely from Moses. The first quote is from [Leviticus 18:5](#), a section in Leviticus that gives God's instructions to the people for how they should live in the Promised Land. They were to obey the law for it would separate them from the pagan nations around them. But the statement, **the law's way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands** reveals the law's fatal flaw. In order to be right with God, one would have to obey the law perfectly, not sinning once—and that is impossible (see [James 2:10](#)). Righteousness that comes from the law is the ideal way of life, but it cannot be achieved well enough to merit God's acceptance. For that level of righteousness, supernatural help is needed.

**10:6-8** Moses also wrote about **getting right with God through faith**. In [verses 6-8](#), Paul recalls phrases from [Deuteronomy 30](#). The book of Deuteronomy includes Moses' final speeches to Israel as they were about to enter and subdue the land that God had promised to them many years before. Moses recited the blessings they could look forward to for their obedience to God, as well as the curses they could expect if they disobeyed and turned away from him.

At the conclusion of his third address to the people, Moses explained that the people knew what they had to do to please God ([Deuteronomy 30:11-14](#)). The **message** was as near as their **lips** and **heart**. No one would have to **go to heaven** or **to the place of the dead** to get it so that they would know what to obey. No one has to go up to heaven to bring Christ down as though he had never been incarnated; Christ himself has already come in the flesh ([John 1:14](#)). No one has to go into the grave to bring Christ up from the dead; Christ has already been resurrected.

Just as God's message was already clear to the people of Moses' day, so it is as near as the lips and hearts of Paul's readers, including us. The words convey an immediate opportunity to respond. It is as close and available to us as it can possibly be without overruling our will. What message is that? **Salvation comes from trusting Christ, and it is within easy reach.**

---

4. Barton B. Bruce et al., *Life Application New Testament Commentary*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 2001), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 615-616.

**10:9** The word is near—as near as your lips and heart ([10:8](#); [Deuteronomy 30:14](#)). To **confess** means to “give verbal affirmation,”—in this case to acknowledge with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord** and was **raised** for you. When we confess that Jesus is Lord, we are acknowledging his rank or supreme place. We are pledging our obedience and worship; we are placing our life under his protection for safekeeping. We are pledging ourselves and our resources to his control for direction and service.

Anyone can say he or she believes something, but God knows each person’s heart. In this confession, it is not enough to merely utter the words; they must be declared, professed, proclaimed from the **heart**, expressing our full conviction. The gospel message in a nutshell is confess and **believe** and **you will be saved**. There is no reference to works or rituals.

**10:10** You must first believe **in your heart**—that belief makes you **right with God** (God declares you “not guilty” for your sins). By prayer to God, you confess **with your mouth** your belief in God and what he has done for you. As in [verses 8-9](#) above, belief and confession lead to salvation. To believe and to confess involve whole-person commitment. They are two parts of a single step, just as lifting the foot and then placing it back down are two movements in the one act of taking a step.

**10:11** To summarize the transaction that he has just described, Paul quotes again from [Isaiah 28:16](#), as he did at the end of [chapter 9](#). “**Anyone who believes in him will not be disappointed.**” Paul is not saying that Christians will never be disillusioned or disappointed. At times people will let us down and circumstances will take a turn for the worse. Paul is saying that God will keep his side of the bargain—those who call on him will be saved. God will never fail to provide righteousness to those who believe.

**10:12** The “anyone” of [verse 11](#) includes both **Jew and Gentile**. God’s salvation is available to all who believe for **they all have the same Lord**. Every person is confronted with the need to acknowledge Jesus as Lord. Because sin is a universal condition, the remedy of justification by faith universally applies. Those who are saved will be richly blessed with God’s great **riches**—in this world (although not always materially, as some might hope or expect), and most certainly in the world to come.

**10:13** A final quotation taken from the Hebrew Scriptures ([Joel 2:32](#)) serves well for Paul’s conclusion. God’s special relationship with Israel will continue, but it has been broadened to include **anyone who calls on the name of the Lord**. God’s plans for Israel had their climax in Christ. Access to God, for all people, now comes through Jesus Christ. With this last reference, Paul neatly lays the foundation for the necessity of worldwide evangelism. [Joel 2:32](#) is an Old Testament mandate for missions. To call on the Lord is to ask the Lord to come to you and be real to you. Those who call on Jesus as their Lord want him to be their Lord and Savior.

# Study and Discussion Questions

For Oct 10 - 24 (3 weeks)



## Israel's Unbelief - [Romans 9:30-10:21](#)

Topics: [Desires](#), [Jesus Christ](#), [Law](#), [Righteousness](#), [Salvation](#), [Self-righteousness](#), [Unbelievers](#), [Zeal](#)

### Open It

1. \*When have you known someone who refused to listen to any advice or instruction?
2. How carefully do you follow the instruction sheet in a ready-to-assemble product?

### Explore It

3. By what means have the Gentiles (non-Jews) obtained righteousness? ([9:30](#))
4. \*What kept Israel from obtaining righteousness? ([9:31-32](#))
5. Over what has Israel stumbled? ([9:33](#))
6. What was Paul's greatest desire? ([10:1](#))
7. What positive trait did Paul recognize in the Israelites? ([10:2](#))
8. What had the Israelites done instead of submitting to God's righteousness? ([10:3-4](#))
9. What is the relationship between Christ and the Law in a person's pursuit of righteousness? ([10:4](#))
10. How did Moses describe righteousness that comes by the Law? ([10:5](#))
11. How does righteousness produced by faith come about? ([10:6-9](#))
12. What were the simple instructions Paul gave regarding personal salvation? ([10:9-10](#))
13. What promise is given to anyone who puts his or her faith in Christ? ([10:11](#))
14. \*What distinctions did Paul note in the way that Jews and Gentiles obtain their salvation? ([10:12-13](#))
15. What does it take to get the message of God to someone? ([10:14-15](#))

16. How have the Israelites responded to hearing the message of God? ([10:16-18](#))
17. \*How did Paul answer the argument that the Jews have not had adequate opportunity to hear God's message? ([10:18-21](#))
18. How had the response of the Gentiles to the message of God differed from the response of the Jews? ([10:18-21](#))

### **Get It**

19. What makes it hard for Jews to believe Jesus Christ is the Messiah?
20. What hinders non-Jews from believing Jesus Christ is the Lord and Savior of the world?
21. \*How can a person have great zeal for God or religious activities and yet be misguided?
22. What are the similarities and differences between a sports fanatic and a committed Christian?
23. How legitimate are claims by people who profess ignorance about Jesus' identity as Savior?
24. \*What groups of people in our society resemble the unbelieving Jews of Paul's time?
25. Why is it essential to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead?
26. Why is both believing with the heart and confessing with the mouth important for salvation?

### **Apply It**

27. \*When could you spend extended time in prayer to bring before God those groups or peoples who have shown little interest in the gospel?
28. Who in your circle of friends and family needs to hear about God's plan of salvation? When?