

**Sermon Notes of  
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on August 20, 2017**

**"Will All Be Saved?  
Part 2 of Exegetical Series  
(Romans 10-11)"**

**[In today's sermon, "Will All Be Saved? Part 2 of Exegetical Series (Romans 10-11)", Pastor Craig Kuhlman stressed the importance of responding to God's loving salvational relationship which Jesus has freely given us.]**

Notes

Introduction:

- Last week, we asked the question, "Can all be saved?"
- This is a provocative question through the centuries.
- We also defined that salvation means having a relationship.
- Salvation is more than just crossing the finish line, but it is life lived in relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit.
- That's what salvation was designed for.

A relationship of salvation:

- A more important question than "will all be saved" is: "Am I saved?"
- That's the most important question to think about in our lifetime.
- We often think about the best experiences we've ever had, but the most important thing we can ever experience is entering into a relationship of salvation with the Father, Son and Spirit.
- Since the beginning of time, the Father, Son and Spirit have wanted to have a relationship with each one of us. That's why humanity was created.
- This is so important that God Himself came to this earth to make this happen.
  
- If we've entered into that relationship and have been transformed by it, then we have accomplished the ultimate "bucket list."
- There is nothing else that is so important. There is nothing in this life that can trump our relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit.
- That's why we are here – that's why we were created – to have that relationship.
- Even though life can be difficult at times, through this relationship, we have everything.
- It doesn't get any better than answering that question positively and saying "Yes, I'm saved. I know who I am. I know that I am owned by the Father, Son and Spirit."
  
- Thomas Torrance, who was a student of Karl Barth – both theologians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, went into Scripture through the lens of who is Jesus Christ.
- So, they came to a radically different conclusion than many other modern day scholars.
- But ironically it was the same conclusion that the early Christians fathers had come to, such as Gregory of Nyssa, Irenaeus, Athanasius and others.

- They held a high regard for grace and salvation and who Jesus was as our Savior.
- They let that lens define the rest of Scripture.
- What they found, through the Incarnation – when God became the historical figure in time and space and existed here with us on earth – was that He accomplished everything that pertains to salvation.
- Through Scripture we can conclude that there is not one thing that you or I can do to enter into that saving relationship.
- Scripture shows us that it is all from God's side and none from our side.
- The apostle Paul said, "That while we were sinners and dead in sin, Jesus saved us."
- We don't really want to be responsible for any aspect of our salvation.
- That would be a slippery slope because we know that we would do something that could un-do what we have done to accomplish our salvation.

### What God has done for us:

- Before we unpack this concept – "will all be saved?" – we need to understand what did God do for us.
- Now what we know, through the incarnation, is that Jesus Christ became man and that He is forever man and forever God.
- Jesus took into Himself all of humanity as Paul said, "When Christ died, we died, and when he rose, we rose and in him we're seated at God's right hand."
- That means that Christ's righteousness was exchanged for our sinfulness.
- This means that our righteousness is Christ's righteousness and that our sin, past, present and future, was forever taken care of by Jesus Christ.
- And that also means that the sin that Adam created for all of mankind was undone by Jesus, the second Adam for all mankind.
- That means from God's point of view, the question – will all be saved? – can be emphatically answered – all have been saved by God's relationship with us and what His Son did for us.
- Now there is no separation from God to us and there's no recognition of sin from God to us, no past, present or future failures can be accounted to us – the record had been cleared.
- Now can we believe that? Can we have faith in that? Can we trust that?
- When we do, we can live with absolutely no fear, no shame, no guilt, and no doubt in the relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit.
- If Jesus were to walk into this room today, He sees us as righteous, He sees us as forgiven, He sees us as made holy.
- There's nothing we can do about it except say, Thank God!"
- So when we ask the question, "will all be saved?" – pastor Craig can say, "Without a doubt, we have been saved. Absolutely. And we had nothing to do about it and thank God for that."
- But you know what, if we don't believe that, it means that we don't enter into a communion relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit and develop that relationship.
- Now what it takes for us to believe this comes from the Father, Son and Spirit, too.

- The Holy Spirit removes the scales from our eyes and gives us the ability to believe, trust, have faith and accept that gift of grace.
- But you know what – we can resist all of that and keep doing our own things in life.
- Scripture warns us about resisting His gift and resisting the Holy Spirit reaching out to us and speaking to us.
- God created us so that we would enter into that same relationship of love that the Father, Son and Spirit experience face-to-face for all eternity.
- God wants that for us. That's why the plan of salvation was put in place, so that we could experience that relationship.
- Now the beautiful thing about God, is that He doesn't force us do anything, because forced love is no love at all.
- But God tells us what to choose – He sets before us life and death – He sets before us Heaven or Hollywood – He sets before us His love which we can accept or spurn.
- And do you know what? When we tell God, "no" He tells us, "no" to our no. That's because God has said, "yes" to us to begin with.
- God will always continue to promote His "yes" to us even in our ignorance and blissful autonomy that we want to maintain somehow.
- The Father, Son and Spirit will never stop pursuing us, even if we choose foolishly to resist.
- Now our Creator God who created time and space can't be placed into a box with His salvation only to be determined by our life and death – that is to say, once we die, then it's over.
- So, if we don't come to that reality of what we were created for in this life time, that process continues whether it happens in a moment after death or it takes some time.
- That's because God's got time.
- So this means we don't have to worry about relatives, or sons or daughters or neighbors or parents who may or may not have had a saving relationship with God before they passed away.
- Now even as we reach out to others, we can't fix them anyway. The Holy Spirit is the only "fixer" so to speak.
- We can have trust and faith that He's got them covered too.

### Salvation:

- So salvation is about relationship. It's about believing in what has already been accomplished by God.
- When Jesus said on the cross, "It is finished", He meant IT IS FINISHED!
- There's not one thing that we can do about our salvation – it's all been done.
- But it doesn't mean that there's nothing left to do in the relationship and the life we live out in loving God and loving others.
- Our ongoing relationship with God changes life – that is a game-changer.
- So when Paul says, "Be reconciled", he's saying, "live into and live out of the reconciliation that you have been given."
- So, Paul is really saying here: take note of your reconciliation and live it out.

## Will all be saved?

- Our denomination, Grace Communion International, would fall into the “uncertain” category about the concept, “will all be saved?”
- That’s because there are scriptures on both sides of the fence and we’re going to explore them through this series of sermons and unpack them.
- Now you can pick up some Scriptures that say, “He’s going to hell.”
- And you can pick up other Scriptures that say, “Jesus Christ already took care of that.”
  
- So are the Scriptures wrong? No. Were they mistranslated? No.
- But there is a tension there. So we have to learn how to resolve that tension and make them fit together.
- Our theology does that in a beautiful way.
  
- So, we do not declare a position as a church, even though we can declare that everything that was needed to be done for humanity has been already been done.
- Through the hypostatic union, humanity, from God’s stand point, has been saved, forgiven, reconciled and redeemed.
- But it’s not automatic. We have to believe it, trust it and live it out.

## The three miracles (moments) of salvation:

- Last week we talked about the three miracles or moments of salvation.
  - Perichoretic (ontological) Union – the Father, Son and Spirit together from the beginning of time have a face-to-face relationship in love and in mutual purpose,
  - Hypostatic Union – this is through the incarnation, God on earth becomes man or a human being for all time.
  - Spiritual Union – this is our spiritual union with the Holy Spirit who encourages us to respond in participation what the Father and His Son have done for us.
  
- We also talked about how the Father, Son and Spirit reveal each of those.
  - Father Declares – He wants to extend that relationship the Triune God has with all of humanity.
  - Jesus Embraces – humanity.
  - Spirit Illuminates – removes the scales from our eyes, so that we can respond and enter into that relationship

## Romans 10:

- Now this brings us to Romans 10.
- Both Romans 10 and 11 speak to this question.
- The church at Rome was not a church Paul ever pastored or founded.
- He had never even attended there, but had plans to do so.
- He also had many of his friends attend there.
- The main controversy in the church was this debate going on between Jew and Gentiles – who’s more important and who’s chosen and who’s in and who’s out.
- In chapters 10 and 11 Paul is addressing that issue and also talks about his heart for the nation of Israel, whom he was a part of.

- This is the summary of Romans 10 in pastor Craig's words: Salvation available to all through faith in Jesus Christ
- And also his summary of verses 1-4: Paul's desire is that Israel comes to salvation through Jesus Christ's righteousness

**Romans 10:1 (Mirror Bible), God knows how my heart aches with deep and prayerful longing for Israel to realize their salvation.**

- Now there's a lot said there in this first verse.
- First of all, it speaks to where our heart is.
- But some will say, if it's God's will that all be saved, then can't He pull this off, even though he does use forced love?
- But regardless, Paul says his heart aches because Israel had not yet realized the salvation that had been offered to them.
- So, now, shouldn't our heart ache for those who have not come to see who they are in the Father, Son and Spirit?
- And shouldn't our heart ache for those who are lost, groping in the dark because they have not had the scales removed from their eyes to see the love God has for them?
- So we can't use as an excuse, that God will someday get through to them, to just sit back and do nothing.
- You see, God, in revealing Himself to mankind, doesn't just do it on His own, He uses us, to reach out, to share, to engage in conversations.
- But we know that when someone crosses our path and the Holy Spirit prompts us to share the hope that we have, then that's what we do.
- And we want everyone to have that loving relationship with God now in this life.

**2) I have been there myself. I know their zeal and devotion; their problem is not their passion, but their ignorance.**

- So once again, it wasn't about what they were doing or not doing, but it was their lack of belief, their ignorance, not knowing who they were in God.
- Paul said that he was there, himself. He was an avid Jew. He was there at the stoning of Stephen giving his tacit approval.
- Paul also acknowledged that he was chief among sinners

**3) They are tirelessly busy with their own efforts to justify themselves while blatantly ignoring the fact that God already justified them in Christ.**

- Paul is talking about those people who have not seen what Christ has already done for them.
- They have not entered into a communion relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit.
- Yet Scripture tells us that they were already justified – past tense.
- So, if sin were such a grievous problem, then why would Jesus, so freely and so graciously, so magnificently, take it away?
- That's because in the Father's eyes, through Jesus Christ, not one of us here has a sin problem.

- Our sin problems have been vanquished, they've been eliminated – they're gone in God's eyes.
- No, this doesn't mean that we don't sin. It doesn't mean that we don't fall short.
- When we do, we repent of our sinfulness and draw back to God.
- So, if we are still wallowing in fear, shame, guilt and doubt and know that the Father has us in His arms, we've got to let those emotions go, because we have been taken care of
- We need to live out our lives in that trust, in that faith – and we have zeal for the right reasons knowing that we are free, knowing that we've been saved, and knowing that our future has been taken care of.
- That's because we have been justified in Christ which means forgiven and the righteousness that Jesus has is the righteousness that we have been given.

**4) Christ is the conclusion of the law, everything the law required of mankind was fulfilled in him; he thus represents the righteousness of the human race, based upon faith (and not personal performance).**

- The righteousness of Jesus Christ is now the righteousness of all humanity, but it doesn't mean anything if we don't believe it and trust in it and accept it and stop beating ourselves up.
- The Father looks at us with the same love that He looks at His Son.
- And the Father sees no sin, no addictions, no relational issues, even though we know, humanly speaking, those can still be a problem.
- You see, Jesus has taken care of those things.

Concluding comments:

- Salvation – as the commercial says, “it just doesn't get any better than this.”
- From the beginning of time, the Father, Son and Spirit have such a loving relationship, a perichoretic relationship, an ontological relationship that they were face to face, separate persons yet one God and they desired to share that with all of humanity.
- Now they had everything. They could create everything, and they could do everything.
- And what was the one thing they wanted to do? – they wanted to extend their relationship with all humanity for all eternity.
- And through the Son's incarnation on this earth, they made that happen.
- It's as good as done – it's in the bank – it's locked up.
- And now the Spirit is revealing that to each one of us.
- And our choice is to see it, to believe it, and to trust in it.
- We need to hold dear to the fact that because of our relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit, we have absolutely no reason to have fear, shame, guilt or doubt because God has done absolutely everything that needed to be done for us.
- Now let's live in that salvation.

**Closing Prayer**