

**Sermon Notes of
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on August 27, 2017**

**"Will All Be Saved?
Part 3 of Exegetical Series
(Romans 10-11)"**

[In today's sermon, "Will All Be Saved? Part 3 of Exegetical Series (Romans 10-11)", Pastor Craig Kuhlman clearly explains the concept of faith that Paul writes about and its application in our lives.]

Notes

Introduction:

- Now we've established that salvation is not just something that will happen in the future, but it's about happening in the present, as well.
- Salvation is about having a relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit right now.
- Last week, we went through verses 1-4 of Romans 10.
- The summary of Romans 10: Salvation is available to all through Faith in Jesus Christ.
- And the summary of verses 1-4: Paul's desire is that Israel comes to salvation through Jesus Christ's righteousness

- Now, today we're starting with verses 5-13, which shows that salvation is available to all who come through faith in Jesus Christ.
- So Paul is going to unpack the concept of faith here.

Romans 10:5 (Mirror Translation), Moses is the voice of the law; he says that a person's life is only justified in their doing what the law requires.

- Now last week, we pointed out that it's not OUR justification, but rather it's the justification of Jesus Christ.
- But the nation of Israel was taught to believe in the Law and that performance was something you did to justify sins.
- So Israel developed an additional intricate set of laws and statues added to what Moses brought down from Sinai so they could become "more holy".
- But Paul is telling the church at Rome, that the Law isn't working out to justify them.

6) But faith finds its voice in something much closer to a person than their most disciplined effort to obey the law. Faith understands that Christ is no longer a distant promise; neither is he reduced to a mere historic hero. He is mankind's righteousness now!

- Now this is a concept that we can sometimes struggle with.
- We don't struggle with the fact that Jesus was righteous and never sinned in his life here on earth.
- The hard fact to believe is that Jesus "is mankind's righteousness now!"

- This means, you and me; our friends and our neighbors.
- And it even means those who don't yet believe in Jesus.
- And this reality of mankind's righteousness through Jesus hasn't change their life yet

6) Christ is no longer hidden somewhere in the realm of heaven as a future hope. For the Jews to continue to ask God to send the Messiah is a waste of time! That is not the language of faith.

- Now the Messiah was already sent and lived among them – but they didn't believe it.
- They didn't have faith – they didn't trust in Jesus Christ.
- Now, as we know, there were some Jews who believed in Jesus – His disciples and others.
- But generally speaking, as a nation, they didn't understand who Jesus was.
- Their prayers asking God to send the Messiah, after He had already come, was not of faith.

Thomas Torrance's defines faith:

- He defines faith as “what happens to our reason when it encounters the nature and reality of God.”
(From the book “Incarnation”, page Xliii)
 - So we need to think about what God has done for us, and the fact that He lived here on earth as the God-man, and died for us so that salvation could be accomplished for all.
 - Faith either sees that and our reason and belief changes, or it doesn't.
 - Faith is not something we have to do, it's something we have to see and believe.
 - So faith is what happens to our reason when we encounter the reality of God.
- *Torrance: “Our reason must either reject such a reality or recognize it and learn to reshape its whole way of perception in accordance with the nature of this new reality – if it does, reason becomes faith.”*
(“Incarnation”, page Xliii)
 - So, when we come face to face with the Father, Son and Spirit, and believe what the Son did for us through the Incarnation, that His righteousness was declared to humanity, then we accept it and live into it.
 - When the Holy Spirit works with us and removes those scales from our eyes, so to speak, then it changes our reasoning.
 - We no longer reason the way we did before.
- *Torrance: “Faith does not just believe in God, it believes that he acts for us in space and time and that in Jesus he has decisively saved us and inaugurated a new creation which is waiting to be unveiled.”*
(“Incarnation”, page Xlv)
 - So believing in God is more than knowing about God, reading about Him somewhere, or learning about Him in Sunday school.
 - Rather when we believe and have faith in God, it reconstructs our thinking and the way we see things and view things including ourselves.
 - This can be summarized then by response – so faith involves response!

Faith involves response – repentance, confession, baptism:

- Remember we said that the purpose of Scripture was belief and response.
- So when we believe in a way that our reasoning has changed, then it leads to a response and that response involves repentance.
- What does repentance mean? – The Greek word, “metanoia” means “change – a change of mind, a change of heart and a turning” of what we used to believe in who we were to who we are now – secured in Jesus.
- And we confess and say, “Yes, Father I know that I am yours, and I have faith that your Son Jesus declared me righteous.”
- And as Scripture says, “We confess with our lips” and the outcome of that is baptism.
- Baptism is simply an acknowledgment within the church body that we are a believer.
- Now there’s nothing magic about baptism.
- Now some will say that being “put under water” pictures “death to our sins.”
- But, “death of our sins” happened a real long time ago through Jesus.
- Baptism is simply a public acknowledgment, a sacrament, that we are part of the body of believers, part of the body of Christ.
- So, if you may want to call baptism “doing something”, but pastor Craig prefers to call it a “response”.
- But the “saving faith” comes when we trust and believe in God and our reasoning changes.
- Now for some, that happens almost automatically. But for others, it takes some time.
- Now relationship with someone, humanly speaking we’re close to, is like our relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit – it’s not something we have to work up.
- But when the Holy Spirit reveals Himself to us, then in many ways we are naturally smitten by that.
- And the faith that we have is really the faith of God. Even that’s a miracle.

7) Faith knows that the Messiah is not roaming somewhere in the region of the dead. “Who will descend into the abyss to bring Christ back from the dead,” is not the language of faith.

- Christ has already risen from the dead and is alive and active in our relationship.

8) Faith-righteousness announces that every definition of distance in time, space, or hostility has been canceled. Faith says, “The Word is near you. It is as close to you as your voice and conviction of your heart.” We publicly announce this message (because we are convinced that it belongs to everyone).

- So faith is within us. It’s not what we do – it’s not what we work up.
- Now living out this new life-style, we become different because when we realize who we are in this new relationship, and that we are defined by God’s love, so then we naturally become more loving toward others.
- But when we don’t know who we are, then we live out of our human hedonistic self, and we live out our lives with the thought – “whatever is best for me”.

- Remember in the first few verses of this chapter Paul was lamenting the fact that Israel had not realized their salvation.
- But now we understand that it's through faith that our salvation is realized.
- The realization of salvation means that we see it and believe it – and when we do that then it changes our way of living.

9) Now your salvation is realized! Your own words echo God's voice. The unveiling of the masterful act of Jesus forms the words in your mouth, inspired by the conviction in your heart that God indeed raised him from the dead.

- So when we know and declare that Jesus was raised from the dead, we know that are participating in that.
- That's because Paul said, "When he died, we died, when he rose we rose."

10) Heart-faith confirms the fact of mankind's righteousness and ignites the kind of conversation consistent with salvation.

- So we don't spend time wondering, "Am I saved or not?"
- Our conversations and thoughts are based on the fact that we are saved and that we are righteous in God's eyes – this is hope-filled, this is uplifting.

11) Scripture declares that whosoever believes in Christ (to be the fulfillment of the promise of God to redeem mankind) will not be ashamed to announce it.

- We treat people differently now because we believe that we are not our own anymore and that we owned by the Father, Son and Spirit – and because of that we live differently.

12) Nothing distinguishes the Jew from the Greek when it comes to the generosity of God. He responds with equal benevolence to everyone who sees themselves identified in him. 13) Salvation is to understand that every person's true identity is revealed in Christ.

- So Paul is saying that are true identity is shaped and confirmed by Jesus.
- Our skills and talents don't define us, rather Paul says our identity is revealed in Jesus.

Concluding comments:

- Paul has been showing us that we are righteous because Jesus exchanged our sins for His righteousness.
- And that is made effective through our faith in Him – by knowing, believing, seeing and trusting Jesus.
- And this trust is not something we have to build up, workup or manufacture because, first of all, it comes from God.
- And secondly, when the Holy Spirit removes the scales from our eyes, that's something we can't control.
- We are literally smitten by the love of God which changes our responses.
- And we can have trust in that, faith in that and not be fearful.

Closing Prayer