

Marks

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading
Giving Time, Talents & Resources ■ Spiritual
Friendships ■ Service In & Beyond the
Church

of Discipleship

July 25, 2021

Day 1: Romans 10:8-9

But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); That 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.

The minimum requirement for being a Christian is to say "Jesus is Lord" and mean it. When we mean it we believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. We will be saved because we are forgiven and because Jesus is our Lord, we will be with him in paradise.

Question: Do you think it is vital that we in some form publicly say Jesus is Lord?

Challenge: Think of the times you have had to state what you believe in a public forum. How did you feel?

Scripture: I John 1

Day 2: Romans 10:10-11

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

If we believe with our whole being and act on that belief we will be saved. Confession with our mouth is publicly saying what we believe. We are telling not just those who can hear us talking but all the forces of evil in the world. We are announcing that we will not be a slave to them anymore. We now have a new Lord, one that will bring us into the family of God. Shame is feeling "less than or not good enough." We are always good enough if we are in Christ because Christ is in God.

Question: What do you think it means to believe "with our whole being"?

Challenge: Look up the difference between shame and guilt.

Scripture: Psalm 25

Day 3: Romans 10:12-13

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

We come into the family of God through our faith, not through our origin of birth. All individuals, no matter what sin they have committed or how long they have waited to confess Jesus as Lord will be forgiven. Verse 13 is a simple explanation of the Parable of the labors in the field (Matthew 20:1-16).

Question: Do you think "death bed" confessions of belief are valid?

Challenge: Confess to God if you have been afraid to tell people you are a Christian and ask God to give you the courage to openly testify to your faith.

Scripture: Romans 10:14-21

Day 4: Romans 10:13

For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Verse 13 is a quote from Joel 2:32 and is similar to Deuteronomy 30:1-5. In both of these passages the Lord promises to restore the fortunes of the people of Israel after the judgment. The prophets told that there was no escaping the judgment of losing the land and going into exile. At the same time, that judgment did not mean they were outside of God's love. The love of God would not let all perish and would restore the broken relationship between God and the people. God's intent was that there would be a restoration of humanity with God. God's plan of salvation began when sin came into the world and God has been working that plan ever since. In Jesus, God's plan is coming to completion. Now *all* people can experience salvation. All people (Jew and Gentile) can become part of God's chosen people and enjoy a right relationship with Him.

Question: What is the name of the Lord?

Challenge: Look up the term -Tetragrammaton - and see what it means.

Scripture: Exodus 3:13-18

Day 5: Romans 10:14

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?

God has provided – in Jesus, the Messiah - the means of bringing together all of humanity into one family. At the day of judgment we would all be found guilty, but before the charge is read against us Jesus stands to say "No, they are not guilty. I have paid the price for their guilt. I have redeemed them." The Judge then says "go and enter my joy." Jesus has gone to the future and stood for us and we are found not guilty. Then He comes back to the present and tells us what he has done and asks us to believe. Jesus' message is Good News because it announces our freedom from the fear of death. The question to us is how will all this Good News get transmitted if not by us?

Question: Would "If someone doesn't know they're in trouble how can they ask for help - so why don't you tell them?" be a good paraphrase of the verse above? Do you have a better one?

Challenge: Put together a short talk on how accepting Jesus as Lord has changed you, including what you believe and why.

Scripture: Colossians 4:1-6

Day 6: Romans 10:15

And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

Verse 14 tells us that people will not hear the Good News unless we take responsibility to tell them. Verse 15 tells us that sharing the Good News is not an individual activity. The phrase "they are sent" implies some group is doing the sending. Some group is equipping and supporting those actually doing the telling. The proclamation of the Good News - the Gospel - is what the church is to be organized to accomplish. In all we do we must organize ourselves with the aim of the proclamation of the Gospel - the Good News that God has brought salvation in Jesus Christ.

Question: Why are feet singled out as beautiful?

Challenge: How would you respond to this verse if the words: mouth, tongue, body, mind, or heart were used instead of feet?

Scripture: Isaiah 52:2-12