

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Jennifer Derrick—scans May 12
- ◆ Florene Howze—health problems
- ◆ Hannah Lawson—tumor
- ◆ Brenda Ray—sick recently
- ◆ Jim Ward—much better lately

Others in Need

- ◆ Janet Andrews—cancer
- ◆ Kallie Autmann—severe burns
- ◆ Belinda Crawford—eye issues
- ◆ Bob Duke—health problems
- ◆ Randy Emerson—broken leg
- ◆ Brenda Mateer—stage 4 cancer
- ◆ Thad McCall—health problems
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Patty Ryan (Stanley Ryan's wife)—improving after cancer surgery
- ◆ Saffder—close friend of Sikander in Pakistan; has COVID-19
- ◆ Bobby Williams—brain tumor surgery recovery
- ◆ Brenda Wooten—stage 4 cancer

Continued in next column...

◆ Beyond COVID-19 itself, many are suffering all over the world because of lockdowns causing job-loss and poverty.

◆ Those mourning, public servants, gov. leaders, military, those traveling, alien sinners, those fallen away, our enemies, and the church worldwide.

To Our Visitors



We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

Events



Sunday and Wednesday Bible classes have resumed, but no children's classes yet.

Our Gospel Meeting in May has been postponed until October.

Privileged to Serve



Announcements—Mark Howze

Song Leading—David Howze

Serving the Lord's Supper

Head: Leo Derrick

Helper: Josh Lawson

Lord's Supper PM

Head: Leo Derrick

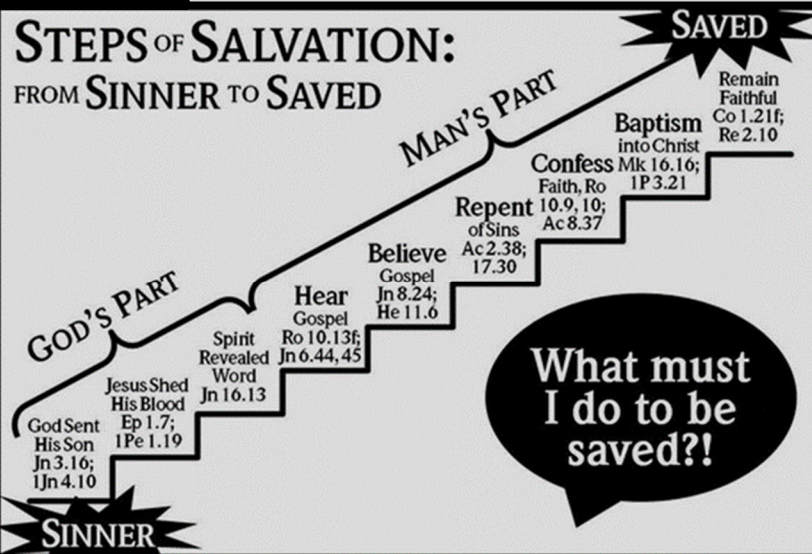
Helper: Josh Lawson

Scripture Reading—Ethan Howze

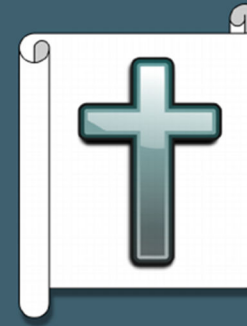
Faithful Worship — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** as prospered, cheerfully (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7); **5) The Lord's Supper** on the first day of every week (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; 16:2; Heb. 10:23-31).

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...ye were the servants of sin..."
(Romans 6:17).



"...but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17b-18).



THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

May 10, 2020

Meeting Times

Sundays:

10AM Bible Class

11AM Worship

6PM Worship

Wednesdays:

7PM Bible Class

Other Information

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20 Things to Understand About Romans 10:9, 10

(Part 1)

By Jason Patrick Hilburn

Introduction: Romans can be a difficult book to understand. Even Peter said some of Paul's writings are difficult to understand (2 Pet. 3:15-18), but one should not get discouraged like those of John 6:66. Be like Peter, who persevered (Jn. 6:67, 68). Sadly, Romans 10:9, 10 has been misunderstood or twisted by untold numbers of people. Some seem to think this is the only passage in the Bible telling man how to be saved, and many have interpreted this confession to be "the sinner's prayer." Those who believe such are strongly encouraged to study further. This article presents some thoughts to encourage an honest, objective study of Romans 10 and its relation to man's salvation. It is highly recommended to read Romans chapter 10 in its entirety before reading the following points.

1. The epistle to the Romans was written to Christians—not alien sinners who had never been saved (Rom. 1:7, 8), so there was no need for Paul to go into great detail to teach them how to become Christians, although he would address that subject briefly. Note that these Christians would need to continue confessing their faith in Christ before men.
2. Paul had already shown the necessity of baptism in chapter 6, before he wrote chapter 10, and the honest reader of Romans 10 will not discard that Truth to take a position that

- contradicts other passages (Lk. 8:15; 2 Tim. 2:15-18). Paul said these Romans had already been “*baptized into Jesus Christ...into his death,*” where Jesus’ blood is contacted and where they were “*then made free from sin*” (Rom. 6:3-5, 16-18; cf. Jn. 19:33, 34; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rev. 1:5). Paul said we bury the person who is dead in sin and are raised to new life, “*through faith in the working of God*” (Rom. 6:1-11; Col. 2:11-13; Titus 3:5; cf. Jn. 3:5; Gal. 3:26, 27). He said “*if*” we have done this, “*we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection*” (Rom. 6:5). One cannot be saved outside of Christ (Rom. 8:1; 2 Tim. 2:10), but Paul taught that one is not “in Christ” until he is “*baptized into Christ*” (Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3).
3. The confession of Romans 10 is a confession of faith before men, not a prayer (Mt. 10:32; Mk. 8:38). It is the confession to men that Jesus mentioned as an essential step for salvation (Mt. 10:32); the confession of the Truth upon which the church was built (Mt. 16:16); the confession early Christians made to men before being baptized to wash away their sins (Acts 8:37-39). It is the good confession that Timothy made before many witnesses (1 Tim. 6:12-13). It is also the same kind of confession that many Jews were unwilling to make (Mt. 26:74; Jn. 7:13; 9:22; 12:42; 16:2), and that is apparently why Paul emphasizes this particular part of the plan of salvation in Romans 10:9, 10.
 4. The verses surrounding Romans 10:9, 10 clearly indicate that Paul was focusing on the Jews in that context (10:1-8, 12, 16-21). In fact, chapter 9 and much of chapter 11 also deal primarily with the Jews, many of whom did not believe in Christ or were ashamed to confess faith in Jesus before men. When reading Romans 10:9, think of Jews who were ashamed to confess Christ. That does not mean they did not have to repent or be baptized to be saved like the Jews on Pentecost, or like Paul himself! (Acts 2:38-41; 22:16; cf. Rom. 6:3-5). Saul/Paul was still mourning his sins and fasting until he was baptized to wash away his sins (Acts 9:18, 19; 22:16).
 5. Romans 10:11 proves that Paul emphasized confession so people (especially Jews) would not be ashamed to confess Christ before men: “*For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed*” (10:11; cf. Mt. 10:32, 33; Mk. 8:38; Jn. 12:42). In fact, that was Paul’s point at the end of chapter 9 also, when speaking of Israel’s reluctance: “*Israel...whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed*” (9:31, 33). This context must be considered to understand Romans 10:9, 10! Paul was quoting Isaiah 28:16, which says, “*...he that believeth shall not make haste,*” meaning he will not be ashamed or afraid, running away in fear.
 6. The Bible often uses a figure of speech called a synecdoche, in which a concise statement is used to represent something more complex. Romans 10:9 is a concise figure of speech used to emphasize something that was sorely needed: people (especially Jews) who were not ashamed to publicly proclaim their faith in Jesus.
 7. If someone does not believe, the teacher will focus on the necessity of belief (Jn. 3:12-16). If someone already believes, but still needs to change, the teacher will likely focus on repentance, and he may not even mention belief (Acts 2:38). In

Romans 10:9, the focus is on belief and confession, because of the Jews’ common reluctance to do so.

8. To take Romans 10:9 and say that confession is required, but baptism is not, is like taking First Peter 3:21 and saying baptism is required, but confession is not. Both statements are false, because “*all Scripture is given by inspiration of God*” and we must learn how to “*rightly divide*” God’s Word, believing every bit of it (Psa. 119:160, 172; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16, 17).
9. Repentance is not mentioned at all in Romans 10, but surely nobody rules out repentance as being required for salvation (Mt. 4:17; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:18; 17:30, 31; 26:20; 2 Pet. 3:9; cf. Lk. 13:3, 5; 2 Cor. 7:10). If one believes that repentance is required because God said so in other passages, he should also believe baptism is required, because God said so (Mk. 16:15, 16; Jn. 3:5; Acts 2:38; 9:6; 10:6, 35, 48; 19:5; 22:16; Rom. 6:3-5, 16-18; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 3:27; Eph. 5:26; Col. 2:11-13; Titus 3:5; Heb. 10:22; 1 Pet. 3:20, 21). Although neither repentance nor baptism are explicitly mentioned in Romans 10, they are both implied.
10. It is also inconsistent to say man is saved by “faith alone,” while also requiring the act of confession (cf. Jam. 2:24). This very passage (Rom. 10) contradicts the doctrine of “faith only” salvation, and the entire Book of Romans emphasizes obedience to Christ, not just belief (1:5; 2:6-11; 4:12; 6:1-22; 8:1-13; 10:16, 21; 12:1, 2; 13:1; 13, 14; 16:26). The Book of Romans, like many of Paul’s writings, was written to prove that men, whether Jews or Gentiles, could only be saved through obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ—not by works of “*the law*” (of Moses).
11. It would be erroneous to claim that the confession of Romans 10:9, 10 is “the sinner’s prayer.” Acts 8:12-24 shows that baptism should take place before prayer (cf. Prov. 28:9; Jn. 9:31; 1 Pet. 3:12). Prayer is a spiritual blessing for those in Christ (Eph. 1:3), and one is not in Christ until he is “*baptized into Christ*” (Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3). As has already been shown, interpreting the confession of Romans 10:9, 10 as a prayer does not fit the context, and one will not see any conversion in the Bible involving an alien sinner living under the New Covenant being commanded to pray to be saved.
12. What **is** seen is a confession of faith before men that takes place before baptism: “*Philip...preached unto him Jesus...and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God*” (Acts 8:35-37; cf. 1 Tim. 6:12). By the way, the Ethiopian rejoiced after baptism, not after his confession, because his sins were washed away in baptism (Acts 2:38; 8:39; 22:16).

*To be continued next week, Lord willing.
The entire article can be found on <http://www.JasonsBibleBlog.com>*