

Into Your Hands The Gospel Is Given
Romans 10:4-17
05-05-19

John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth"

Jesus' powerful words have an important meaning. First, it declares that there is a concept of truth that is more than just something that is true; it describes truth as an absolute that is only defined by the Word. Second, it states to us that we are made holy by that truth. To understand this idea we need to visit Romans 10 and walk through Paul's powerful description of what it means to have the Gospel in your hands and in your heart.

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Paul is not declaring that all law has come to an end (Rom. 8:2). Instead he is declaring that which Christ declared: He is the fulfillment of the Law of Moses, that which was missing. In Christ the law of Moses is nailed to the cross, and a new covenant with a new law and new promises has been enacted by His blood.

Romans 10: 5 For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness.

We live by the covenant of Christ, which espouses the law of faith; not merely the actions, but the heart behind them.

Romans 10: 6 But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?' (that is, to bring Christ down), 7 or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." 8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, in your mouth and in your heart" --that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,

The big idea: Paul is declaring that the message of the Gospel, the New Testament, is not something which one must seek as though it is the wisdom of the Greeks or the law of Moses in the temple; instead, all portions of this are within the believer who hears and accepts the word. From this idea multiple important points come.

1. The entire power of God to save lays in your hands when you hold the Scriptures
2. No one can remove that power once you have taken it into yourself (i.e. by hearing)
3. Faith comes not by miracles or by other people/things, but by the word of God.
4. Nothing can make you believe and obey except the Word of God.

Romans 10: 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

How is this faith that saves manifested? By receiving the message and declaring it. The importance of the confession is that it is a declaration that you are taking a stand, as did the blind man in John 9. Men needed to call Jesus to be saved, and tell Him what they wanted (Mark 10:48-51)

Romans 10:11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

This new law was universal; this was God's purpose in Christ, to reunite men into one perfect covenant. In the past, God was forced to deal with mankind by the various nations (created at the Tower of Babel). It is a clear reconciliation of this idea that on the day of Pentecost, the day the new covenant is introduced, the languages of man are reunited. God's desire is not to have a church and Israel, but one perfect covenant with Jew and Gentile as one.

Romans 10:15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!" 16 However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Now Paul describes how important it is that this message is made known. The word (not the church or the person) is what saves, and that is what needs be brought to men.

CONCLUSIONS

The Ark of the Covenant held the covenant of Moses; it held the law (symbolized by the Ten Commandments) and the promises (symbolized by the manna and the rod of life). Today, the bible you hold in your hands, particularly, the New Testament, is that ark. It contains the law of Christ and the life, for the word itself is the manifestation of our life. When you take this word into you, you become the temple of God, and by keeping the law in its place, you remain holy

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