

I. Introduction and review.

II. If you try to make yourself righteous by law keeping, you will fail. v. 5

- A. The person who keeps the law perfectly shall live. Lev. 18:5 Ezek. 20:11,13,21
- B. The problem is that none of us can keep the perfect standard set in the law. Mt. 5:48
 - 1. If you break even one part of the law, you are a lawbreaker. Js. 2:10
 - 2. The requirement of the law is not merely external, but inward, spiritual, and comprehensive. Mark 12:29f Lu. 16:15 Mt. 5:20f
 - 3. Many today think they can be justified by law keeping.
 - 4. None of us will be justified by the law. 3:20
 - 5. God never intended us to seek salvation by law keeping. Rather, the law was given to show us our need of His way of salvation. Gal. 3:24
- C. Those who break God's law are under a curse. Gal. 3:10 Deut. 27:26
- D. Jesus alone kept the law perfectly (for us). 8:4 3:31 Ps. 24:3-4 51:6
 - 1. He met the law's demand for perfect righteousness. Gal. 3:12 I Pe. 1:19 Heb. 5:9
 - 2. He satisfies the law's demand that sin be punished. Gal. 3:13

III. God offers you a righteousness which is received by faith. v. 6-8

- A. What point is Paul trying to make from Deuteronomy 30:11-14?
 - 1. He is not saying that the law was easy to keep.
 - 2. Rather, he is talking about the nearness (accessibility) of God's law.
 - 3. Just as God plainly revealed Himself in the Law of Moses,, He has made the way of salvation accessible in the New Covenant through Christ. John 1:17 Heb. 1:1f
- B. God has already done all that is necessary for you to receive His righteousness. v. 6-7
 - 1. God the Son has already come down from heaven. John 1:1,14 Ga. 4:4
 - 2. God the Father has already raised Him from the dead. 1:4 4:25 Acts 2:24,27
 - 3. Most religions are man's quest to seek God.
 - 4. In Christianity, God has sought man. I Jo. 4:10
- C. The way to receive God's righteousness is simple: Believe God's Word. v. 8
 - 1. God's Word is near. Mt. 11:28-30
 - 2. Simply believe the gospel. 10:13 Acts 16:30-31
 - 3. Sadly, just as the Jews failed to properly comprehend the law, they have failed to recognize God's way of salvation through faith in the Messiah.
 - 4. People today have the same problem. Mark 10:17 I Ti. 2:5

IV. Believe in your heart and confess with your mouth. v. 9-10

- A. What is the relationship between believing and confessing?
 - 1. We are justified by faith which takes place in the heart. Jo. 20:31 8:12 Acts 16:31
 - 2. Saving faith produces an outward confession with the lips. I John 4:15
 - 3. A mere outward confession does not save, if it does not express sincere faith in the heart. Mt. 7:22-23 15:8 Isa. 29:13 Titus 1:16 Js. 2:19
 - 4. If someone refuses to confess his faith in Christ, the reality of his faith is questionable. Luke 12:8-9 Mt. 10:32-33,22 John 12:42 9:22 I John 2:23

B. What is the content of faith? II Jo. 1:7

1. Jesus is Lord. Acts 2:36 I Co. 12:3 II Co. 4:5 *Early Christian creed.*
 - a. His Deity. 9:5 10:13 Jo. 20:28 1:1f Phil. 2:11 Ps. 110:1 Lu. 20:42-44 Re. 19:16
 - b. His sovereignty.
 - c. Is it possible to believe in Jesus as Savior without receiving Him as Lord?
2. God raised Him from the dead. 1:4 4:24-25 5:10 6:4-5,9-10 I Co. 15:14f I Pe. 1:3-4

C. How should you confess your faith in Christ. Ps. 107:2 I Ti. 6:12

1. Confess your faith through the ordinances.
 - a. Baptism. Acts 2:38 8:36 I Pe. 3:21
 - b. Communion.
2. Confess your faith through public worship. Heb. 10:25
3. Confess your faith through identifying yourself with Christ's people. Acts 2:47
4. Bear witness to others. Acts 4:20
5. Defend the faith. I Pe. 3:15
6. Bear witness by how you live: at work, as a citizen, when facing temptation, persecution, and death. I Pe. 2:12-20 Gen. 39:9 Luke 21:12-15 Acts 5:27-32 7:60

V. The Scripture confirms: Believe and you will be saved. v. 11-13

A. Believe in the Lord and you will not be disappointed (ashamed). v. 11

Paul repeats the promise of Isa. 28:16 with a new emphasis: "whoever". 9:33b

B. God's riches are offered to Jews and Gentiles without distinction. v. 12 3:21-22 1:16

1. There is One Lord who is over all of us.
2. All of us equally need salvation. 3:22
3. All are saved in the same way.
4. Those who are saved enjoy all of God's riches. Ga. 3:29 Eph. 3:8 1:7 2:7 Jo. 1:16 II Co. 8:9 9:8 Col. 1:27 Rev. 5:12 Is. 55:1

C. Whoever will call upon the Name of the Lord will be saved. v. 13 Joel. 2:32 Acts 2:21

1. What does it mean to *call* upon the Name of the Lord? Ge. 4:26 12:8 13:4 Ps. 105:1 Acts 9:14,21 22:16 I Co. 1:2 II Ti. 2:22b I Ki. 18:24 Psa. 116:12-13
2. The blessing of the New Covenant offers salvation to all people. Gen. 12:3
3. Which leads to the charge to bring this good news to all. v. 14f Acts 1:8 Mt. 28:19

VI. Concluding applications. John 3:16 6:37 Acts 16:30-31

Discussion Questions for Family Worship

1. What are the two ways that a person could be made righteous?
2. What is the condition of being made righteous by the law?
3. Who has gained life by keeping the law?
4. What is Paul saying about God's way of righteousness in verses 6-8?
5. Which comes first faith or confession?
6. Is it possible to have a kind of faith which does not save?
7. Is it possible to make a confession of faith without being saved?
8. Why is confession of faith important?
9. What is the content of the confession of faith one must make?
10. What is the significance of the word *whoever* in verses 11 and 13?
11. Have you called upon the Name of the Lord?
Have you confessed your faith in Him?