



## Group Discussion Guide

### Romans 10:1-13

*For groups meeting May 10 evening through May 17 morning.*

Once again, we see Paul's desire to see his fellow Jews come to Christ. He wrote that this was his "heart's desire and prayer to God," (v. 1). He acknowledged that they were passionate about God, but their passion was not based on knowledge of the things of God (v. 2). Rather than submitting to God's plan of redemption through Jesus (through which God's righteousness is given), they ignorantly attempted to establish their own righteousness (vs. 3-4). And of course, Paul understood this mindset all too well. He himself walked this same path before Jesus changed his life forever.

The apostle then contrasted the two types of righteousness: the one based on the law and the one based on faith. Righteousness that is based on the law is only attained when a person "does the commandments" (v. 5). The problem with this, of course, is that no one has ever been able to follow all the commandments of the law perfectly, except for Christ. Even if someone attempted to follow the law in faith, that person would fall short and would still be in need of God's grace. Paul wrote that righteousness based on faith does not require human effort. He used Deuteronomy 30:12-14 to demonstrate that righteousness based on faith means not having to travel anywhere to access it ... instead God has sent salvation to mankind through the sending of His Son and the spread of the Gospel (vs. 6-8). While in Deuteronomy the doing of the commandment was key, the coming of Christ ushered in the new covenant of faith.

Paul used these words from Deuteronomy 30:14 to break down how a person attains salvation through Jesus: "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart." He wrote that salvation came both through confessing with the mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believing with the heart that God raised him from the dead (v. 9). This order follows the order from Deuteronomy, but in verse 10 Paul reversed the order; he began with the heart and then referenced confession with the mouth. This shows us that the order isn't the point of this teaching about salvation. Instead, Paul was making sure his readers understood that both were part of coming to faith in Christ: that with the heart a person believes, and along with that belief comes an outward confession or confirmation of what has taken place in the heart. These are viewed as happening together, and not as two separate steps of attaining salvation.

Isaiah 28:16 is once again used by Paul in verse 11, in a slightly different way than his use in Romans 9:33. Instead of using the entire verse, Paul only quoted the final sentence. And here he chose to use the Greek word translated "everyone" rather than "whoever" as he did before. Every person who believes in Christ can be confident in what Jesus has done for them; they will not be let down. As he did in Romans 9:24, Paul again reminds his readers that both Jews and

Gentiles who call on the Lord will be saved (vs. 12-13). Verse 13 is quoted from Joel 2:32, which Peter also quoted in Acts 2:21 during his first sermon on the day of Pentecost. This great promise gives us assurance that salvation is given to all who call out to God for forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

## Discussion Questions

1. What happens when a person has a passion for God, but this passion is not based on the truth of God (v. 2)?
2. Why do you think people have a tendency to “establish their own” righteousness (v. 3)? What does it mean to you to know that “Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes” (v. 4)?
3. In your words, describe the difference between the righteousness based on the law and the righteousness based on faith.
4. Why do you think Paul focused on both belief and confession in verses 9-10?
5. When you consider that, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame” (v. 11), how should that affect our everyday lives? If we have confidence in Jesus, what are some specific ways this will change how we live?
6. Salvation is for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord (vs. 12-13). Who are you praying for to be saved? How does this truth intersect with the way we view unbelievers? What about the way we view other believers?