



Romans 10:5-13 New Revised Standard Version

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “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 that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Notes: _____



Limited. Exclusive. Privileged. These words, and others like them, communicate certain things are not for everyone. The other day, I saw a television ad for some product which indicated that if viewers were amongst the first one hundred people to “call now” they would receive an exclusive bonus to “sweeten” the deal. I couldn’t help but wonder if this was true and if caller one hundred and one would be left hanging. Needless to say, I didn’t call the number to find out.

Fortunately, with God’s salvation, there is no exclusivity clause. You and I have each been given access to the grace which God has made possible through Jesus’ sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection. As Original Free Will Baptists, we believe salvation is possible to anyone who is open and receptive to what God has made available. It is not a matter of where you are from or how much you may have to your name. We call this in theological terms “general provision.” God has provided the means of salvation for anyone who will respond through trust and commitment.

Paul speaks of this in Romans 10 when he addresses the accessibility of salvation for Jews and Gentiles alike. This is reminiscent of the song many of us learned as children, “Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight...” The gift and requirement are the same for all people: belief and confession. The salvation supplied by God is not limited to a select few and God does not “hand pick” whomever he chooses to save. Salvation is present for the asking and receiving; it is a matter of human free will to either accept or reject what has been made available. Paul’s words remind us...

1. God makes possible what is impossible through our efforts.
2. God does not complicate our accessibility to salvation.
3. God applies no exclusions to who can be saved.

Prayer Pebble: Lord, thank you for making your salvation available to all.