

The Word of Faith which We Preach

Rom 10.5 For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." 6 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) 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 preach).

* **Paul's Jewish** opponents were arguing that the gospel of Christ represents a radical _____ from God's plans & promises in the OT. Paul was countering that the gospel of Christ represents no departure at all, but rather a _____ of God's plans promises. So one the pivotal questions was whether the righteousness of faith was consistent or inconsistent with the way of righteousness laid out in the law.

* **Our text** throws us into the broader _____ to determine how Paul's words should be translated and interpreted, for the Greek word for " _____ " at the beginning of vs 6 can also be translated " _____ ", depending on whether Paul intended to draw a connection or a contrast.

* **The immediate** context indicates that Paul intends to draw a _____, for Paul's three quotations in vs 5-8 all come from the _____.

* **In Rom 7**, Paul, using his old, unregenerate self as a sample Israelite, says that the problem with the law was not with the law itself, but with the enslaving power of _____ over him.

Rom 7.14 "[T]he law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin."

Thus the law presumed _____ by the Holy Spirit & the saving _____ of Abraham within the heart.

* **The law** could call Israelites to regeneration and to saving faith, but it had no _____ to produce them.

Deut 10.16 [C]ircumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer.

John 3.3 Jesus ... said to him, ... "[U]nless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God ... 10 Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?"

Psalms 51 ... A Psalm of David ... 11 "Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me."

* **For regenerate**, believing Israelites, the law was truly the way of _____, because it objectively pointed and led to _____ and righteousness through faith in him.

Rom 10.4 (literal) "The goal of the law—Christ unto righteousness for all who believe."

* **For unregenerate** Israelites, the law's effect was to prove (1) the iron _____ of Satan, sin, and death upon them, and (2) the absolute _____ of the incarnation, virgin birth, perfect life, atoning death, resurrection, and coronation of Jesus, the promised Seed of Abraham, for that is the only way to have the Spirit turn enslaved sinners into the dwelling place of the God.

Isa 29.13 "[T]hese people draw near with their mouths ... but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men"

Eze 36.25 ... "I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you" ...

1Cor 3.16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Rom 8.14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God ... 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God

* **In Rom 8.4**, Paul says the result of salvation in Christ is "that the righteous requirement of the _____ might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." That could never be true if the law was a _____ way of salvation antithetical to faith in Christ.

* **In Jer 31.31-34**, God says that the effect of the new covenant will be to write his _____ on his people's hearts and minds, so that they truly _____ him, and will finally be his people. That could never be the case if the law was a _____ way of salvation antithetical to faith in Christ.

Jer 31.31 "Behold ... I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel ... 32 not according to the covenant that I made ... [when] I took them ... out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them ... 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel ... I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me ... For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

* **All these** factors indicate that Paul is drawing a connection in Rom 10.5-6, thus vs 6 should begin with " _____," not "but."

* **Vs 5 quotes** _____, which was written for the priests. It's main theme is that God, having redeemed Israel, is going to _____ in the midst of his people.

Lev 26.11 I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you. 12 I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. 13 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright.

* **Lev. presumes** _____, and is talking about living in God's presence in light of the same. That means becoming _____ God who saved them, being _____ like he is.

Lev 11.45 For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

* **If God is** the people's highest love, they will be _____ by him, not by the unbelieving peoples around them.

Leviticus 18.2 ... "I am the LORD your God. 3 According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances. 4 You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the LORD your God. 5 You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the LORD."

In other words, "I am the God of _____, and walking with Me is the _____ of life. To depart from Me and My path is to walk in the path of _____."

* **Lev. spells** out the various sacrifices, all of which pointed to _____. Lev. lays out the festal calendar, which began the year with _____, and ended it with the Day of _____ (i.e. propitiation), both vivid pictures of Christ's atoning death.

1Cor 5.7 ... Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

1John 4.10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

* **Vs 6-8 quote** Deut 30.12-14. In context, Moses is telling the people that in spite of all God's miracles before them, they still did not have hearts to _____, eyes to see, and ears to hear (Dt 29.2-4); and that they are going to turn away from God and end up in captivity again, scattered among unbelieving nations (30.1).

But Moses prophesies hope on the other side:

Deut 30.3 "[T]he LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you ... 6 And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the

LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Then, Moses encourages the people by assuring them that the law is not calling them to some impossible _____ of perfection. And Paul, in vs 6-8, gives us a divine commentary on the passage:

Rom 10.6 [And] the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) 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 preach)

* **The opening** words of the quote in vs 6 actually comes from Dt 9.4:

Deut 9.4 "Do not think in your heart ..., 'Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land' ...

* **Paul is not** pitting the law against _____ — that's what his Jewish opponents were doing — Paul is showing that the law was built on _____, required _____, & led to _____.

* **The idea that** God's people should actively walk with him after he has saved them makes many modern Christians _____ that they are trying to earn their own righteousness. But the NT teaches the same thing.

Col 2.6 As you ... have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

Col 2.10 [W]alk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects

Rom 6.4 [W]alk in newness of life

2 John 6 [W]alk according to His commandments

Rom 8.13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the flesh, you will live