

In step with Jesus 180

November 30, 2025

Key Text: “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Ezekiel 36: 27 – 27)

Introduction

Last week we started reading Romans chapter 10 and we joined Paul in his reflection upon the salvation of Israel but much more, upon the salvation of all those who would receive Jesus, the righteousness of God. The repeated emphasis is that Israel could not be saved by the works of the law, neither shall we. We are saved by grace through faith. The theme of righteousness by grace through faith has been repeated throughout the book of Romans, and we do well to give our whole attention to it, because we have not received the knowledge of God that leads to eternal life unless we have understood and accepted this truth. As we saw in last week’s reading, Paul did not want to leave his audience, as well as ourselves, in confusion as to how to obtain the faith that leads to salvation. He told us that salvation is as simple as believing in our hearts and confessing with our mouths that Jesus is Lord. By emphasizing the need to believe in our hearts and confessing with our mouths, Paul takes the religion of Jesus Christ away from superficial performance to the need for a heartfelt love and obedience towards God.

Today we will read the remaining verses of Romans chapter 10 as Paul continues to express his longing for the salvation of Israel, and by extension, our own salvation. The emphasis in today’s reading is the importance of hearing the word of God in our faith development. Let us read and see what more we can learn from the Holy Spirit.

Romans 10:11-23

¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has

believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

¹⁸ But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world." ¹⁹ But I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, "I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry."

²⁰ Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me." ²¹ But of Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people."

Reflections

You may have noticed that in writing Romans chapter 10, Paul drew heavily from the Old Testament scriptures. From Isaiah, Joel, and Deuteronomy, Paul drew messages to show that God is the author of salvation. His eternal plan has been to save all who would call upon His name, whether they be Jews or Greek and that Israel's reaction to the gospel did not take God by surprise. God knew that salvation would only come by faith and that faith would only come by hearing the word of God, so He started speaking early, using different means. He spoke through nature, He spoke through prophets like Moses, Joel, and Isaiah. He spoke through David in the Psalms and spoke through Jesus His son. He did not stop there; He continued to speak through the apostles and through all who have believed in Him. By looking back to the Old Testament Paul established that his gospel was not new, but that it was the same everlasting gospel that God Himself started preaching to Israel.

According to Paul, God spoke to Israel, and Israel heard but Israel did not obey. How could that be? The Jews were performing the works of the law. Paul said they were zealous towards God so they heard with their ears and at least they tried to do what they heard, but still God reckoned them as faithless and disobedient. What was the problem? Their hearts. God knew that while they performed the works of the law, their hearts were not attentive to His words. However, the good news is that God did not leave them to their own devices. He knew they had a heart problem and He promised to give them a new heart and put a new spirit within them. Like the Jews, we also have a heart problem. We have heard the word of God, but our hearts need to be in tune with the heart of God. Only then shall we truly obey in love. We cannot change our hearts, but the author and finisher of our faith has promised to give us a new heart. Let us trust Him because He who has begun this good work in us is faithful to complete it. Amen.