

# The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ From The Dead (Romans 10:9-10)

"...and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead" (Romans 10:9.)

## **Romans 10:9-10**

*9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*

This morning we have gathered to rejoice and to remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. And as we do so, let me remind you that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is both the single most significant event "**in**" human history as well as "**for**" human history. Let me explain.

## **The Single Most Significant Event "In" Human History**

First, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most significant event "**in**" human history because before the time Jesus on the earth and since that time there has never been a person who has died, been buried and raised to life never to die again. As we sang earlier, truly history has been split in two as a result of the resurrection of Jesus. Now, it is true that there are some like Enoch and Elijah who never died but were taken up by the Lord into heaven; but these then never faced man's greatest enemy, death. And yes, we know of a number of resurrections in both the Old and New Testaments where individuals like Lazarus, who had been dead for four days, was brought back to life from the dead. But in each and every one of these cases, those who were resurrected died again. And so, we find in Jesus One who died; and died one of the most if not the most brutal of deaths; who also was raised to life, never to die again. Can you fathom that? Does that cause you to wonder? The resurrection of Jesus is truly the most significant event "**in**" all of human history; that a person has died and yet has been raised to live forever.

## **The Single Most Significant Event "For" Human History**

But there is a second importance of the resurrection of Jesus that makes it the most significant event "**for**" human history. Beloved, the truth that Jesus was raised from the dead becomes a matter of life and death for the rest of humanity. Because Jesus rose from the dead never to die again, He has become as Colossians 1:18 states, "**the firstborn from the dead**" – meaning that Jesus was the first of many who would die but will be raised from the dead never to die again. In other words, there would be those who because they believe on and in Christ would also come to possess the same eternal life as Christ. And how is this "eternal life" received? According to John 3:36, "**He who believes in the Son (believes will be explained later) has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.**" The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the ultimate matter of life and death; life for those who believe and death for those who do not believe. The great reformer, John Calvin noted, "*that none participate in the benefits of Christ save those who raise their minds to the resurrection.*" Let us raise our minds to the resurrection.

## **What Bearing Does the Resurrection of Jesus Have On Your Life?**

And this all brings us to some questions, "What is the significance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead? What does an event that took place some 2000 years ago have to do with us? To make it more personal, what bearing does the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead have in your life on a daily basis?"

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These are the questions I hope to have us answer as we look at our text. Turn in your Bibles to Romans 10. Our final focus will be upon Romans 10:9-10, but to get there we will read and consider the eight verses leading up to our text as well and the Old Testament passage of Deuteronomy 30 from which Paul quotes in Romans 10 to give us insight and understanding of our text. Remember, the question we are seeking to answer is this, *"What bearing or what importance does the resurrection of Jesus Christ have in your life on a daily basis?"*

Please turn in your Bibles to Romans 10. I am going to approach our text a bit differently than what we are accustomed to. As we read through Romans 10:1-8, I will simply make some commentary, some explanation that leads us to our main text of verse 9-10.

The basic context: in Romans 9-11, Paul was explaining the God's plan and purpose for Israel. You see, Israel had seen and experienced the mighty hand of God. Israel had been given the law of God; shown God's commands and precepts. They are those of whom the prophet Micah declared in Micah 6:8, ***"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to justice (righteousness), to love kindness (mercy), and to walk humbly with your God?"***

And yet these, who had all the covenants and blessings of God had rejected the very One to whom these all were pointing to, the Messiah, the Lord Jesus. Paul was showing not only Israel's failure, but also God's promise for them in the future. Beginning where we are picking up, Paul was still revealing why Israel missed the good news about Jesus. Let us read in Romans 10...

## ***1 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them [Israel] is for their salvation.***

Paul's heart for his countrymen is revealed.

## ***2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.***

Israel wanted to know God; they had fervor for God, but it was not based upon what God had revealed to them. It was not grounded in God's revealed word.

## ***3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.***

It is amazing that it could be said of Israel that they did know about God's righteousness. It's all there, in the writings of Moses and the prophets. What happened? Israel had sought to establish a righteousness of their own. They had sought to come to God in their own way; on their own terms, in both rebellion and eventually ignorance of what God had said.

Israel, and primarily the Pharisees, the strict religious leaders of Paul's day, had so twisted and perverted God's way; God's standard of righteousness, God's means and methods for living before Him that it was no longer God's righteousness, but rather a righteousness of their own making. In other words, Israel had sought ways to make themselves presentable to God. In their righteousness, their standards, they sought to prove themselves worthy to God, or to improve themselves so that God would be impressed with them.

And humanity is still the same, *always seeking to prove or improve themselves so as to be right with God.* We so quickly forget that all have sinned and fall short of God's standard; of God's righteousness and therefore we all deserve God's wrath.

# The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ From The Dead (Romans 10:9-10)

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## **4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.**

In contrast to seeking a man-made, self generated righteousness, verse 4 tells us that Christ is the end, or the goal or climax of the law for righteousness. This does not mean that Jesus fulfilled the law, which of course He did (Matthew 5:17) but rather that we are to see in Christ the only one who is perfectly righteous and for those who believe that He alone is perfectly righteous and that He alone has been accepted by God as such; these alone will seek to be in Him, will desire to be found in Him, in a relationship with Him.

## **5 For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness.**

Here Paul is alluding to what Moses said in Leviticus 18:5 which says, **"So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, by which a man may live if he does them; I am the LORD.** In other words, if you want to live, you can do so "if" you perfectly keep all the statutes and judgments of God. If a person wants to live by the law of God in order to obtain life, fine, but understand this, that person must keep all of God's law for any violation results in law breaking and the punishment is death. This is what James referred to in James 2:10, **"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all."** The problem for Israel and for all humanity is that we are by nature law breakers. Not only was Israel unable to keep God's law because they were all sinners; all humanity is unable to keep their own laws. How many non-Christians would agree that it is wrong to lie and believe that people should labor to be truthful? Quite a few, and yet how many of them who hold to this law also break this law? Everyone of them. How many of you who drive have every broken the speed limit? It doesn't matter why, or if just by a fraction. We are all lawbreakers. We can't live up to God's law and we can't even live up to our own laws. And even if someone had as their law that they had no laws by which to live by (figure that one out) – not only could they not keep that law; but such a way of life would not be pleasing to God. We do ourselves no favors by trying to obtain a righteousness, a being right with God based on law.

## **6 But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?' (that is, to bring Christ down),**

In contrast to seeking to right by some kind of law, there is a righteousness that is based not on what I can do, but rather is based on a trust in what God has done. It is called here in verse 6 the righteousness based on faith. And Paul, quoting from Deuteronomy 30 tells us that the righteousness that comes by faith will not say in its heart, **"Who will ascend into heaven? (that is bring Christ down)."** In other words, who will prove or improve themselves to God so that they may go into heaven and say, "Look at me, look at what I did to make it to heaven – now Jesus, since I made it, why don't you go down and help those others who are not as good as me." The righteousness of faith says, "Jesus came down from heaven to save sinners of which I am foremost of all."

## **7 or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)."**

Additionally, the righteous of faith does not say, "Who will descend into the abyss' (that is, to bring Christ up)." In other words, who is there that can face the due penalty for their sin, that is death; and delve into the depths of the sea of death in order to raise Jesus Christ from dead? No

# The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ From The Dead (Romans 10:9-10)

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one and in fact, God raised Jesus from the dead, not a person, not a church, not some council or political action group.

**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 are preaching,**

What does the righteousness that is based on faith say, it says, **"THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"** What "word" is this? What word is Paul speaking about? We read on, **"that is, the word of faith which we are preaching.** Beloved, Paul is speaking of some good news. The "word" of faith that had been preached was the accomplishments and the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Finally, in all of human history, a Man, Jesus Christ, lived perfectly before God and was received by God and promised to all who would believe in what He did as being for them, that these also would be granted His perfect righteousness in place of their own imperfect righteousness. Such a "word" such a message had been preached, it had been heard, it was being talked about and pricking their hearts.

And this brings us to those familiar words of Romans 10:9, **"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved..."** Please notice the two components that Paul says are included in the experience of salvation; a confession of the Lordship of Christ along with a believing in the heart in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul follows the order of the quotation from verse 8 and Deuteronomy 30:14 stating the confession of the mouth first, followed by believing in the heart. But this is not the order of salvation and Paul purposely reverses the order in verse 10 saying, **"for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness (being right with God comes from belief in what God has done, not in what you can do) and with the mouth he confesses resulting in salvation."**

So then, we find that the **"word of faith"** that Paul had been preaching included a call, an invitation to believe something, that God raised Jesus from the dead, along with an exhortation to confess something, namely "Jesus as Lord." At issue today is not does a person simply believe "in Jesus" or does he believe that Jesus rose from the dead. For even the demons believe in Jesus. Satan believes in Jesus. The whole demonic realm knows that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for sins and that He rose from the dead and yet we know that these are not saved. Similarly, there are many who will hear in churches today the truth that Jesus has risen from the dead and that He has ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father. Many will "believe" in these facts and yet be completely unchanged. Remember Matthew 7:21-22 where Jesus says, **"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven...May will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"** So then, it is certainly not simply the saying of the words or even the doing of good things that allows one to enter the kingdom of heaven. What then is necessary then to be saved according to these verses?

## Believe that God Raised Him From the Dead

We have already noted that no amount of self-effort to prove or improve ourselves before God will work. There is no law that we can keep. Rather, verses 9-10 tells to **"believe"**. This seems simple enough. In Acts 16:31 we read the call of Paul to the Philipppians jailer saying, **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."** But the next question is, "believe

# The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ From The Dead (Romans 10:9-10)

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what?” What was to be believed? Romans 10:9 tells us, **“believe that God raised Him from the dead.”** How is that for specific? But why this, what is so important about believing in an event that, while spectacular, is 2000 years removed from us? What is important here is not simply the event itself, but rather what the event accomplished, what it proved, what it tells us about Jesus as well as what it tells us about ourselves.

A genuine saving faith or belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is not content with just saying or casually believing that “Jesus rose from the dead.” But rather to borrow from 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 saving faith believes and confesses, **“that Christ died for our sins [for my sins] according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures....”** The believe and confession of the truly saved is both personal [for my sins] as well as according to the Word of God. To believe that God raised Jesus from the dead then is to know why Jesus died. He did not die because He was some political trouble-maker causing grief to the Roman Empire. He did not die because He was a religious fanatic that wanted to see the destruction of the very Scriptures He came to fulfill. Beloved, He died because He willingly laid down His life for His sheep. He died because He was the perfect Lamb of God come to pay the penalty and be the ransom for those He came to save. To believe that God raised Jesus from the dead is to know something about ourselves. It is to have a personal awareness that it was our own sin that put Him on the cross. It is to know that Jesus died personally and specifically for you. It is to know that you are indeed a sinner; one who has missed the mark, the standard, the righteousness of God (Romans 3:23) It is to know that the wages of sin is death and that you deserve the death that Jesus died for you (Romans 6:23). To believe that God raised Jesus from the dead is not simply a matter of conviction – it is not simply a fact to be known, but rather it is a truth by which to be daily transformed. Our text says that this truth is to be believed in the heart. The “heart” for Paul, was the very core of a person’s being. The center from which every action, every motive, every inclination would be directed. To believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead is to be committed then to all that Jesus is and to all the Jesus taught.

To believe that God raised Jesus from the dead also implies several other truths that are so often missed or glossed over when speaking to others about coming to Christ. To believe that God raised Jesus from the dead is to believe in the deity of Jesus, that is to believe that Jesus is God in the flesh, God come down from heaven, God with us. Paul already stated this for the Romans back in 1:1-4:

**1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, 4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead...**

To believe that God raised Jesus from the dead then is to believe that Jesus is God, in the flesh, it means that you have some understanding of the what we call the incarnation, God’s becoming man as well as believing the virgin birth. It means that you believe in the sinlessness of Jesus because God accepted Him as a lamb, spotless and unblemished. To believe that God raised Jesus from the dead is to accept all that Jesus said as truth; that He has shown us how to live for God’s glory; that He has gone into heaven to pray for us and to prepare us a place and that He will also come again for us. This phrase, “believe in your heart that God raised Him from

# The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ From The Dead (Romans 10:9-10)

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the dead" is one of the most pregnant verses in all of Scripture, so full of truths to consider and to celebrate. Is this what you believe?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not only the basis then for your salvation, but it also becomes the very catalyst for your daily walk with God. Remember I asked the question, *what bearing to the resurrection of Jesus Christ in your life on a daily basis?* If you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, then you will know and want to know more fully these truths. You will know yourself to be a sinner in constant need of God's grace to live for Him. In fact, based upon Romans 10:1-10 and Deuteronomy 30 from where Paul quotes, we learn that even the believing, even embracing all these truths is a gracious act from the hand of God. In other words, we can't even believe aright unless God does something to us and for us. Let me show you this, first from Deuteronomy 30 and then from some New Testaments passages.

In Deuteronomy 30:11-14 we find the text from which Paul quotes in Romans 10:6-8. Time does not permit me to get too detailed here, but notice that in verses 9-10 we find the promise of the Lord's blessing on Israel, according to verse 10, **"if you obey the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and soul."** That's simple, right? That's easy enough, right? The repeated theme found in Deuteronomy as well as in the book of Leviticus is this, "Obey all the commandments of God and live." Of course the opposite was also stated as well, "Disobey the commandments of God and die." No problem, Lord, we will keep everything that is written in this book of the law! But notice what verse 11 says, **"For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor it is out of reach..."** And then down in verse 14 we read, **"But the word [the good news and promise] is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it."** What, not too difficult...that you may observe it? Had Moses lost his mind? Not at all, what is the "word" that is "very near"? Look with me at verse 6. Here my friends is the good news. Here is the reason why living for the Lord was not to be too difficult. We read, **"Moreover, the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God will all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live."**

It is the Lord who accomplishes this for us. It is Him who circumcises the heart. He will cut away the sin that blinds us and keeps us from acknowledging our need of His work of grace in our lives, to impart to us His righteousness as provided by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Beloved, until God acts, we are lost in our sins. In Philippians 1:29 we read that it has been granted to us, bestowed by God that we would even believe in Jesus as well as suffer for Him. In Acts 16:14 we read of a woman named Lydia, of whom it is said that "the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul" so that she would believe and be saved. Thomas Oden noted, "Life can only be received. Life is offered as sheer gift. In new birth from above, there is no way for those already dead in their sins even to ask for new life, which being dead in sin they cannot even conceive (Rom. 8:10, 11; [Eph 2:1-5](#))." He goes on to state, "Apart from grace one cannot even pray for or hope for a reborn relationship to God. No one can simply grasp, claim, or seize the new birth of faith, hope, and love. They are gifts of the Spirit which until given, the unawakened sinner cannot manipulate into conception, birth, or growth. Like Incarnation and Resurrection, the new birth comes on God's own initiative." To believe that God raised Jesus from the dead then is to know that God has planned, purposed, initiated, carried out, accomplished, secured and finalized our salvation by the work of His Son, Jesus Christ.

# The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ From The Dead (Romans 10:9-10)

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## Confess with Your Mouth Jesus as Lord

Looking back at Romans 10:9-10 then we have one more component that Paul links to salvation. According to verse 10, belief in the heart results in righteousness, the righteousness of God and of Jesus Christ granted us as we believe and this belief results in something else, a confession of the mouth, a confessing that Jesus is Lord, which results or confirms what has taken place in the heart, the salvation of one's soul. You see, saving faith has a confession to make. Saving faith always has something to say. As I have so often repeated as of late, Psalm 107:2 says, "**Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the adversary.**" Beloved, those whom the Lord saves have something to say. Saving faith is neither empty or silent. Saving faith desires to be known in order to confirm what is held in the heart, for how can anyone else know what you believe in your heart if you do not confess it, make it known with your mouth. Confessing your faith or what you believe in your heart also provides comfort and assurance of salvation. How can you have comfort in something you are unwilling to confess? Charles Spurgeon noted, "*The Lord will not give to you the warmth of faith unless you are willing to yield the obedience of faith by taking up your cross and confessing Him.*"

But what are we to confess? Our text states it simply enough, "**that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord...**" Please remember that this must mean more than simply uttering the words. There is to be a substance and meaning in this confession. To confess means to agree with and speak before others. There is to be a common confession among the redeemed. And when the redeemed speak of Jesus as Lord, there are a number of characteristics to be considered.

**First**, to say that Jesus is Lord is to acknowledge and submit to Him as the Master or Ruler. The Greek word used speaks of one to whom others are accountable to and therefore submit to. To confess Jesus as Lord is to say in effect, Jesus is my sole Master. Jesus is my leader, I am the follower. Jesus is my teacher, I am the student. Jesus is my captain, I am his soldier. Jesus is my Lord, I am his servant.

**Second**, to say that Jesus is Lord is to acknowledge Jesus as God. The Greek word Lord is used to translate the Old Testament name of God, Yahweh and it is used as well then to express the deity of Jesus Christ. Jesus is not someone less than God, or just under God, He is indeed God and worthy of every praise, adoration and all worship.

**Third**, to say that Jesus is Lord as it is stated here is a definite testimony. The confession of the believer is not to be a passive inference that someone might perceive in your life. In other words, it is not enough to simply try to live the Christian life without also confessing or making Christ known. We are to state with our mouths the truths that reveal Jesus Christ is Lord.

## What Bearing Does The Resurrection of Jesus Have In Your Life?

Beloved, because Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead and our hearts have been transformed to believe all the truths associated with that including making Christ known – then the bearing such truths have on our lives is enormous. *What bearing does the resurrection of Jesus Christ have in your life on a daily basis?* Let me share just a few and ask you to consider more after you leave here.

Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, when you say, "I believe in Jesus," it ought to be as good as saying to the world, "I am done with you; you have nothing for me. All my hopes, all my ambitions and all my efforts will be directed toward this end, to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ."

# The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ From The Dead (Romans 10:9-10)

"...and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead" (Romans 10:9.)

Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, your life and words are to be the visible expression of your union with Jesus. Do you remember ever taking sides with some friends? Right or wrong, most of us have experienced choosing one side or the other. To confess Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that He was raised from the dead is choosing His side and siding with His cause. This will be reflected in the decisions you make daily. What will you read, what will you watch, what will you spend your time on. Each decision become and opportunity to confess the Lordship of Christ and the belief of your heart the God raised Him from the dead.

One last thought; because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, you have become a witnessing tool in God's hand to testify to the world who is Christ and what is a Christian. I love how Spurgeon used this point to challenge our thinking. He wrote that the believer's confession is *"useful to the outside world as a witness reproving their ungodliness, and inviting them to a better mind. The confessions of the saved are often the means of saving others. This is a hard saying to some of you. You have good points about you, but you do not let your light shine before men. Your candle is under a bushel: it cannot burn well in so confined a space. If it is God's own fire, and you put it under a bed to hide it, it will soon set the bed on a blaze. Mischief comes of suppressed truth."*

What bearing does the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead have in your life on a daily basis? First let me ask some of you this; has the resurrection of Jesus ever had a bearing on your daily life at all? Have you seen Him not simply as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, but more importantly as the Lamb of God who has come to take away your sins? Notice that in verse 9 the statement is very personal, that if you confess with your mouth and if you believe in your heart. Ask God this day to reveal to you your need of Him. Ask Him to show you His holiness, your sinfulness and to give you a heart broken enough to cry to Jesus to be saved, for as Romans 10:13 says, **"Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."** Receive the heart to believe and the mouth willing to confess.

And for those who believe, let us be reminded to be all the more certain that we believe aright and that our confession of Jesus as Lord is never silent and never veiled. Let us burn brightly as lights in this crooked and perverse generation; rather than burn brightly because we've tried to hide our candles under the basket. Every day let the resurrection of Jesus Christ embolden you to greater acts of faith and greater confessions of trust in our wonderful, merciful Savior. Amen.

*Soli Deo Gloria*



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