

2011SERMON#10 ROMANS 10LET'S BE THANKFUL

Romans 10:1-13

The Apostle Paul opens this chapter leaning on the Last.

He repeats that he loves the Israelites and would not that any would perish.

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Romans 10:1-2

The difficulty that Paul faces is attempting to persuade the Jews to move from righteousness in the law, to righteousness by grace.

Grace in Jesus Christ who is the messiah.

Well that was a tough job, because

He had been one of them.

This reminded me of Ross, who was interviewing Jacob for a sales job in a wealthy men's wear store. Ross looked at Jacob's resume and noticed that Jacob has never worked in retail before. So Ross asked Jacob, "What goes, if you don't mind me saying. For someone with no retail experience, you are certainly asking for a high salary."

Jacob replied, "Well I suppose I am, but you must understand that the work is so much harder when you don't know what you're doing."

So Apostle Paul begins by trying to refocusing the Jews on what God has given them.

They should be

THANKFUL FOR LIFE THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US

5Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them." Romans 10:5

Paul is showing them that God has had Israel in his heart all along.

He loves them

He wants them saved.

That there is no predestined plan that Israel should be lost

There is no "irrevocable decree"

The impediment to Israel's was Israel.

Do not say to yourself, "my power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." But remember the Lord you God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, and as he swearing to you today." Deuteronomy 8:17-18

All through the book of Romans

God has been reaching out to lost Israel,

Israel is Israel problem.

Just like we are our own problem.

We also have no excuse.

Every time we look at nature we see Gods hand in creation.

Every pile of corn stacked outside an elevator ought to do something for us.

Every time we get up and go out—we see the blessing of God

Every time we pet our dog, or find our cat, we rejoice in God's blessing

Every time we hug our child,

Receive a letter,

Find a smile,
 Every time we watch a bird
 Catch a falling star, or
 Experience an inspiration,
 We realize how much God loves us.

What a God that we have that has given us all things for our enjoyment.
 All the Israelites had to do is look around them.
 All we have to do is look around us.
 To see the hand of God in our midst.
 That should call us to thanksgiving.

Not so long ago a magazine polled famous people all over the world and asked them:
 "if you could be granted one wish that will come true right now - what would that be?"
 The one response that the editors liked best was this:
I wish that I could be given an even greater ability to appreciate all that I already have."

This Thanksgiving week lets be thankful for all that we already have.

I. I. LETS BE THANKFUL FOR FAMILY.

I hope that you all have fond memories of your past and present family.
 I know some of your families were DIFFICULT.

Take the family who had a little boy named Dewey who was one of those holy terrors. His dad was surprised when Dewey's mom suggested that they buy him a bike for his birthday. He said: "Do you really believe that'll help improve his behavior?" she said: "Well, no, But it'll spread it over a wider area."

I grew up with very practical parents.
 A mother, God love her,
 who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it.
 My mother even saved the plastic lining in a cereal box
 She wrapped our school sandwiches in it.
 She was the original recycle queen, before they had a name for it...
 And I had a father who was happier fixing his old shoes than buying new ones.

Their marriage was good, their dreams focused.
 Dad was always dressed in bib overalls.
 And Mom was in a house dress with an apron over it
 lawn mower in one hand, and dish-towel in the other.

That was the time for fixing things.
 We didn't buy new,
 We fix the curtain rod, the kitchen radio, the screen door,
 the wash machine, the hem in a dress.
 The wagon or tractor.
 Keeping things --was just a way of life.
 and sometimes it made me crazy as a kid.
 All those hand me downs,
 All that re-fixing, eating, renewing,

I wanted just once to be wasteful.

Waste meant affluence.
 Throwing things away meant you knew there'd be more.

But then on that clear winter's night,
 in the warmth of the hospital room,
 Mom died.

I was struck with the pain of learning
 Some things are irreplaceable
 That sometimes there isn't any more.
 What gets used up goes away,
 Never to return,
 Never to be experienced again.
 A empty space that won't be filled.

So friends
 While we have it,
 It's best we love it,
 And care for it,
 And fix it when its' broken,
 And heal it when it's sick,
 It's true for marriages
 And old cars
 And children with bad report cards
 And dogs with bad hips and
 Aging parents.
 We keep them,
 We love them
 Because they are worth it.

I would not be a believer today,
 Had my parents not taken the time to pass their faith on to me.

If you were raised in a Christian family.
 You have a second blessing to rejoice in.
 I hope you were connected to a Godly family.
 A family that made a difference in your life.
 If you weren't than it's your opportunity to start
 by making your family different.

14How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? Romand 10:14

Today we give thanks for faithful families.
 For the faithful followers
 For the pilgrim fathers
 For the prayer of a mother,
 They all remind us
 That we are connected to family.

Because they passed on to us

what we could not have found ourselves.

As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:15

And today we should be thankful for

II. THE SALVATION THAT IS OURS IN CHRIST JESUS

Faith in Christ is an individual thing for each person.

It is an essential thing for each person.

And it is close and near to each person.

"The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: Romans 10:9

Paul is saying that it is near us and we just have to bring it out.

Activate it.

To make it a reality

How do we do that?

9That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

Three things are repeated throughout the NT.

1. Believe and confess
2. Believe and repent
3. Believe and be baptized

Faith, repentance, confession, and baptism are all divinely imposed conditions of salvation, none of them outranks any of the others.

10For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:10

Our salvation is really rather simple.

but is similarly commanded,

and a prerequisite to justification.

Everyone therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven (Matthew 10:32).

We won't get to heaven any other way.

Many years ago a group of farmers decided to eat their best potatoes and to only plant the small ones. They kept up this practice for many years, even though they noticed the potatoes getting smaller and smaller. They blamed the weather and the beetles and the blight.

They kept it up until all of their potatoes were reduced to the size of large marbles.

The farmers learned through bitter experience that they could not keep the best things for themselves and use the leftovers for seed.

The laws of life and nature decreed that the harvest would reflect the planting.

Planting Potatoes is like planting our faith.

We don't need new methods,

Or novel devices

Or modern approaches to saving peoples souls.

The deterioration begins when we began to limit sharing our faith with our children.

And then our grandchildren.

Instead of talking to them about Jesus,

We keep that to ourselves and only talk to them about religion,
Or about the church,
Or about having faith.

Think about the dumbing down of Thanksgiving.
We call it turkey day.
There's a reason for the name change.
When people sit down before the great feast on Thanksgiving Day,
they is a sense that they ought to bow their heads and give thanks.
Yet people today would rather forget God.
And to suppress the feeling that on Thanksgiving
God deserves their gratitude.
We call it Turkey day.
and we forsake the traditions on which Thanksgiving,
kept God at the center.

We must share our faith,
That we believe in Christ.
And confess him with their mouth.
Or else by the end of your generation
We will have a family that lost their faith.

When we sow a person testimony of Jesus as our Savior
The benefits of knowing him
And loving him.
We will reap in your family a faith that loves Jesus.
And will go out to serve him.

But we must share the faith.

It was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of what was preached to save them that believe. (1 Corinthians 1:21).

Friends when people come to faith in Christ.
Their lives are changed.
Despair becomes hope,
Disaster becomes success.
Brokenness becomes wholeness.
Sin becomes salvation.
Frowns are turned into smiles.

No wonder Pauls says:

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:15

VIDEO

Let's pause and hear some real testimonies from real people who are sharing the message of thanksgiving for the Shower of Blessings they have received.