

How to Be Right with God

ROMANS: *What Remains*

May 15, 2022 ROMANS 10 Pastor Jonathan Schaeffer

*For it is by believing in your heart that you are made **right with God**, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.*

Romans 10:10

The Bible's message

It's been said that you can summarize the Bible's teaching like this: It tells us how to **get right** with God, and how to **live right** with God. And Romans—of all the Bible's 66 books—is the best Cliff's Notes version of the Bible that we have. It diagnoses our spiritual condition (bad news) and announces the cure (good news) that is available to everyone.

Our best efforts are **never enough**

It's human nature to try to get right with God our own way. Our tendency is to rely on ourselves, thinking we can achieve our acceptance with God. That's the pattern of every religious system...except for Christianity.

*They don't understand God's way of making people right with himself. Refusing to accept God's way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God **by trying** to keep the law. **Romans 10:3***

- Our **good works** and religious background will never be enough.
- Our **efforts to obey** God's commands always come up short. *Moses writes that the law's way of making a person right with God requires obedience to **all** of its commands. **Romans 10:5***
- It doesn't matter how sincere we are in our religious devotion. **Sincerity** alone never saves anyone. *I know what enthusiasm they have for God, but it is misdirected zeal...they are clinging to their own way... **Romans 10:2,3***

God makes us right with him **only by our faith in Jesus**

- Faith begins with surrender: "**I cannot**," and embraces Christ as my only hope: "**He can**." He took the punishment for our sin. *All who believe in him are made right with God. **Rom. 10:4,13; 1:17***

- Saving faith is a "**trust transfer**" from my ability to Christ's. *God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. **Romans 5:8; 3:25; Mark 10:45; 2 Cor. 5:21***

This is the heart of Christianity. God sent his own Son as a **substitute** for all who would be saved from sin.

- Genuine faith in Christ leads me to **renounce** every other master, including myself, and to **surrender** to him my total allegiance. *If you openly **declare that Jesus is Lord** and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. **Romans 10:9,10***

Make it Personal

- **How do you "call on the name of the Lord"?** By talking with him. The words aren't what matters; instead, it's how you humbly come to Jesus and surrender to him.

Dear God, I'd like a fresh start on life. I don't want to stay the same. As much as I know how, I invite you to take leadership of my life. Thank You for loving me and forgiving me, and for sending your Son, Jesus, to die for my sins and set me free from the fear of death. Jesus, I want to open up my life to You and get to know You. I invite You to be the leader of my life from this day forward. I want to learn to trust You. Please put Your Spirit in my life to direct me. Thank You.

- **Where are you being called to a life of greater surrender to Jesus as your Lord?** What specific changes do you need to make to surrender in this way?
- **How do you explain to someone what God has done to forgive people and restore them to himself?** Check out this video for a great example: bit.ly/3circles3min

Where we are in ROMANS: SOVEREIGNTY

SIN: A friendship shattered (ROMANS 1-3:20)

SALVATION: A friendship restored (ROMANS 3:21-5)

SANCTIFICATION: A life filled with God (ROMANS 6-8)

SOVEREIGNTY: God's plan for Jews & Gentiles (ROM 9-11)

SERVICE: Friendship with God & others (ROMANS 12-16)