

Romans 10

Verse by Verse



Previously in Romans

Previously in Romans

- Paul began by showing us that all are condemned and in need of a Savior.
- Those who live immoral lives and those who live moral lives – no one can save themselves.
- The religious and the non-religious both need Jesus.
- The Jew (who believed in the true God) and the pagan (who did not) both need to come to faith in Christ.

Romans 10 Introduction

Romans 10 Introduction

- In **Romans 9 – 11**, Paul explains Jewish unbelief.
- He would desperately like to see his countrymen saved.
- At the same time, he knows **their present unbelief** was foretold by their very own Hebrew prophets.
- God is currently working to **reach the nations** with the gospel – the good news of Jesus Christ.

Romans 10 Key Verse

Romans 10 Key Verse

- Romans 10:17 (ESV)

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Romans 10 Outline

Romans 10 Outline

1. Israel's Unbelief 9:30 – 10:4
2. Faith-based Salvation 10:5-13
3. The Need to Believe 10:14-21

1. Israel's Unbelief 9:30 – 10:4

1. Israel's Unbelief 9:30 – 10:4

- By the time Paul writes this, **Gentiles** had become the majority in the church at Rome and other places.
- He feels a need to explain how that happened.

1. Israel's Unbelief 9:30 – 10:4

- First, the Gentiles had no righteousness of their own to rely upon.
- They came to Christ by faith.

1. Israel's Unbelief 9:30 – 10:4

- We also see Paul's heart once again in wanting to see the lost saved – especially his fellow Jewish people.
- See 9:1-5 and how Paul reinforces that in 10:1-4.

1. Israel's Unbelief 9:30 – 10:4

- The Jews had the law which was part of their covenant relationship with God.
- Paul combines **Isaiah 8:14** and **28:16** to show that this stumbling over Christ would happen.

1. Israel's Unbelief 9:30 – 10:4

- 1 Corinthians 1:23-24 (ESV)

²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1. Israel's Unbelief 9:30 – 10:4

- 10:4 Christ is the end of the law.
- End = *telos* = the principal end, aim, purpose or goal.
- The law has been pointing to Christ all along.

1. Israel's Unbelief 9:30 – 10:4

- Righteousness by some sort of law may still be the most common form of religion today.
- It is also a common form of *non-religion*.
- People often feel pressure to conform to their cultural norms whether religious or non-religious.

1. Israel's Unbelief 9:30 – 10:4

- People often feel pressure to conform to their cultural norms whether **religious** or **non-religious**.
- Muslim women will conform to strict dress codes and the men will feel pressure to have them conform.
- Meanwhile, Americans are tirelessly virtue signaling on social media to show they support a popular cause.

1. Israel's Unbelief 9:30 – 10:4

- The culture sets up a standard of what is good.
- People follow it and then feel better about themselves.
- They are seeking to establish their own righteousness.
- Let's hear more on this subject from Paul

2. Faith-based Salvation 10:5-13

2. Faith-based Salvation 10:5-13

- Paul makes his case from the Old Testament, citing at least five verses from **Deuteronomy, Isaiah** and **Joel**.
- His point here, as in this entire book, is that we are ultimately saved by means of faith, not human effort.

2. Faith-based Salvation 10:5-13

- Romans 10:9-10 make a good pair of memory verses.
- They clearly illustrate that we are justified before God without – or *prior to* – the performance of works.

2. Faith-based Salvation 10:5-13

- Note the word “everyone” in 10:11 and 10:13.
- Neither “believing” in Christ nor “calling on the name of the Lord” require any standard to be met.
- These are merely ways that we describe or express our faith.

2. Faith-based Salvation 10:5-13

- The result is described by Paul in 10:12.
- Spiritual riches are available to all, Jew and Gentile, religious or non-religious.
- And these riches are available by faith.

3. The Need to Believe 10:14-21

3. The Need to Believe 10:14-21

- 10:14-15 In context, Paul is describing the rationale behind his own ministry and that of the apostles.
- By way of application, we can take as:
 - Encouragement to engage in evangelism.
 - Encouragement to send out missionaries.

3. The Need to Believe 10:14-21

- Not everyone is used by God in the same way, but all churches need to be **evangelistic** or **missions-minded**.
- This is **not a guilt trip** to get people to give to missions or take part in evangelism in pressure-driven ways.
- It is **a clear explanation** as to how people come to saving faith.

3. The Need to Believe 10:14-21

- **Romans 10:17** (ESV) So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
- (NKJV) So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- (HCSB) So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.

3. The Need to Believe 10:14-21

- The **need to believe** the proclaimed message about Christ is a key point.
- It goes against a trend that says all faiths or religions are really the same or just as good as one another.
- This is **not true** according to the Bible.

3. The Need to Believe 10:14-21

- Remember Paul lived and carried out his ministry in a culture like our own – a culture of pluralism.
- You could believe in any god or goddess you wanted as long as you were okay with others doing the same.
- Various religions, philosophies or spiritual practices were carried out side by side at the same time.

3. The Need to Believe 10:14-21

- In a sense, this kind of pluralism is really one more form of works righteousness.
- At the bottom it is saying, “These are good people. How can God not accept them?”
- “Is Jesus really necessary for them?”

3. The Need to Believe 10:14-21

- The Bible's response is that **none of us are good enough** – our righteousness falls short.
- We need to receive **the righteousness of God** by faith – faith in Christ.
- That faith only comes by **hearing the word of Christ**, the word of God, the message of Christ proclaimed.

3. The Need to Believe 10:14-21

- 10:18-21 Here Paul explains again Israel's unbelief.
- There will be more on this in Romans 11.
- As we will see, their hardening is partial and temporary.
- And then Paul holds out an incredible hope.

3. The Need to Believe 10:14-21

- What better encouragement can we have to pray for the lost and share our faith than this?
- **Romans 10:20** (ESV)

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.”

3. The Need to Believe 10:14-21

- Romans 10:20 (ESV)

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.”

- In other words, neither seeking God nor asking for him is needed in order to hear and come to faith.

3. The Need to Believe 10:14-21

- God can reveal himself to people in astonishing supernatural ways.
- God can prepare a heart in ways that we do not see.
- God can work in ways uniquely suited to a person who is not particularly open to spiritual things.
- Nothing is too difficult for him.

3. The Need to Believe 10:14-21

Pray for the lost.

Be open to sharing your faith with them.

Romans 10 What We Just Read

Romans 10 What We Just Read

1. Israel's Unbelief 9:30 – 10:4
2. Faith-based Salvation 10:5-13
3. The Need to Believe 10:14-21

Romans 10 Key Verse

Romans 10 Key Verse

- Romans 10:17 (ESV)

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Romans 10 Key Points

Romans 10 Key Points

1. Gentiles coming to faith in Christ while many Jews refused to believe was **foretold by the prophets**.
2. Paul still longed to see his countrymen saved, which is **a good example** for us.
3. Salvation is available to all, and this **salvation is by faith** not by human effort.
4. And yet **faith in Christ** is needed, not just some vague good intention.

Romans 10 Key Points

5. We cannot set up **our own standard** of righteousness no matter how popular it is.
6. Saving faith comes only by hearing **the message of Christ** proclaimed.
7. This is great encouragement to pray for the lost and to be open to sharing our faith.

Romans 10 A Prayer

Romans 10 A Prayer

- Dear God and heavenly Father,
- We thank you for your supernatural grace and unconditional love for us, most clearly seen in Christ's sacrifice for our sins.
- We pray that you would increase our love and longing to see the lost saved.
- We ask that you would also help us to stand firm in a culture that desires to see all beliefs as equally true.

Romans 10 A Prayer

- Please help us to be diligent in praying for the many lost people that we know.
- Help us also to be open to sharing our faith. Give us clear occasions to make Jesus known.
- And give us that blessing of seeing the lost come to a saving, transforming, life-changing faith in you.
- In Christ,
- Amen

Romans 10 References

1. Cover Photo: <https://www.andantetravels.co.uk/tours/worldwide-escorted-tours/rome-the-heart-of-the-empire/>
2. Smith, Chuck (1981). *The Gospel According to Grace: A Clear Commentary On the Book of Romans*. The Word For Today. Kindle Edition.
3. Stott, J. R. W. (1994). *The Message of Romans: God's good news for the world* (The Bible Speaks Today). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
4. Moo, Douglas. (2000). *The NIV Application Commentary: Romans*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.
5. *Africa Bible Commentary: A One-Volume Commentary Written by 70 African Scholars* (2006). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.