

*Personal Responsibility*  
*Romans 9:30-10:13*

*"Since the end result of heart belief and mouth confession... is the righteousness and salvation about which the text speaks, and since these are the greatest blessings any human being can receive, let it be your deep desire to believe on Jesus as Savior and Lord wholeheartedly and let it be your earnest endeavor to confess him before others in every possible way. Let's be rid of all 'secret discipleship,' if such a thing even exists. We do not have long to live. Let us use our time well and wisely, above all by trusting wholly in Jesus Christ and by confessing him boldly with our mouths. Let us stand with him, bearing his reproach, knowing that if we do, one day we will be with him in glory and will reign with him forever.*

*Jesus himself said, 'Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven' (Matt. 10:32)." Boice*

- I. For Jews and gentiles alike, either the Lord is the cornerstone of our lives or he is the rock over which we fall. To put it more bluntly, we will either embrace him here through faith knowing that he will embrace us when we are finally in his presence, or we will stumble over him here because we think that the gospel is foolishness and find that in the reality of the after-life, Jesus can't and won't embrace us because our sin will prevent him from doing so.*

*Rom. 9:30-33*

*Isa. 8:14*

*Isa. 28:16*

*1 Cor. 1:20-24*

***Matt. 7:24-27*** *"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."*

- II.** Believing the gospel is all about receiving the righteousness of Jesus; it can only come from him. We can't generate, make, or produce it on our own, and if we try we will put a lot of energy into nothing of eternal value. Isaiah points out <sup>our</sup> our attempt to make ourselves right before God is about as good as "**filthy rags**" (**Isaiah 64:6**). *"The point is, both our acts of righteousness, and the quality of righteousness that we hope they produce, are disgusting to God. So if you are disgusted by Isaiah's language, think of how God, who inspired Isaiah to choose those coarse words, is repulsed by our efforts to get him to save us."* Leitch

Rom. 10:1-7

Eph. 2:8-9

Deut.30:11-16

**2 Cor. 5:21** *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

- III.** The gospel is not silent, God makes it available for all to hear. Those who hear it have a personal responsibility to respond to its message of salvation from sin through the finished work of Christ on the cross. Through the moving of the Spirit, those who believe through faith **naturally** and **without hesitation** confess with their mouths Jesus as both God and Lord of their lives. At the same time, the Spirit stirs in the heart an insatiable desire to enter into a heart devoted, obedient relationship with Jesus.

Rom. 10:8-13

Luke 2:11

Jer. 29:13

Ezek. 11:19

1 Jn. 2:5-6

Isa. 28:16

Jer. 6:15

Jn. 6:37-40

**2 Cor. 6:2** *I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.*