

Romans 10:1-15

March 30, 2022

Verse 8 of this chapter says “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.” The original quote in Deuteronomy refers to the law, the one the Israelites promised to keep but could not. But here it speaks of the word of faith proclaimed in the blessed gospel.

This is not the only place in Scripture where listeners are told that salvation has drawn near to them, into their very presence.

John the Baptist (and Jesus) cried “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is *at hand*” (Matt. 3:2, 4:17)

At the Lord’s first sermon in the synagogue at Nazareth, He read a prophesy from Isaiah then said, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled *in your hearing*” (Luke 4:21).

Paul tells the Athenians that God “is actually *not far* from each of us” (Acts 17:27).

Each of these carries a sense that God’s grace is right before us, but also responsibility, just as a blessing and curse were both set before the Israelites back in Deuteronomy 30. As Paul goes on to tell the Athenians, “*now* he commands all people everywhere to repent.”

But this portion does not stop at the responsibility of those brought under the influence of the gospel. It also reminds us that they cannot hear the gospel unless it is told to them. “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

Questions:

1. What does Paul pray for his Jewish brethren? What should we pray for them?
2. Do you think Paul had anyone in mind when he speaks of the Israelites having great but misguided zeal for God?
3. What is the difference between the righteousness of verse 5, and that of verses 6-8?
4. Why do we not need to bring Christ down from heaven or up from the grave?

5. Verses 9 and 10 require both belief and confession of Christ for salvation. Why both?
6. Elsewhere, Scripture talks of being saved after believing and being baptized. How does that fit?
7. What is the significance of saying that “Jesus is Lord”?
8. See verse 12 and list a few of the rich blessings that accompany salvation.
9. How can we reconcile verse 9 – everyone who calls on the Lord will be saved – with the previous chapter’s emphasis on God’s sovereignty in choosing?
10. What is my responsibility in verses 14-15?