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Sermon Notes

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Calling on the Name of the Lord

Romans 10:11-13

Introduction

Two great shocks for the Jews in the Gospel that Paul preached

- 1) Not all Jews would be saved
- 2) Some Gentiles would be saved

Each of these truths enraged the Jews... but here Paul makes clear that the simple faith spoken of in Romans 10:9-10 is equally available and accessible to Jew and Gentile alike

Salvation is not a human achievement... there is no great work required to work off the guilt of our sins

We are not called to ascend to the heavens or descend to the depths of the sea

We are not called to traverse the oceans to the far side of the world, to win salvation like Odysseus or Jason and the Argonauts

No, salvation is a matter of simply believing a preached word

Here, in Romans 10:11-13, Paul anchors the universality of God's saving concern in two Old Testament quotes... this simple salvation is universally available... available both to Jew and Gentile alike

And Paul is not inventing it... it is the way it has always been

I. God's Timeless, Universal Saving Concern

- A. Timeless: God's saving concern for the Gentiles is TIMELESS

Romans 10:11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

1. Paul No Heretic or Doctrinal Innovator

- a. Jews attacked Paul as though he were preaching a new God or a new message... They viewed Paul as a doctrinal innovator, a heretic, a rebel, a blasphemer
- b. Paul's constant appeal to the Scriptures to support his views makes their charge ludicrous... by my count, this is the 42nd time Paul has directly quoted the Old Testament in the Book of Romans!!
- c. Verse 11 begins... "As the Scripture says..."
- d. Paul established the gospel from the Old Testament again and again

Romans 1:1-2 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God-- ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures

2. Old Testament Context

- a. Isaiah 28:16... two forms of refuge
- b. Jews faced with invasion by a foreign power because of their sins
- c. God sent prophets (especially Isaiah) to warn them to repent
- d. The Jews mocked the prophets and refused to listen
- e. The Jews claimed to have made a special arrangement, a covenant with death
- f. By their own arrangements, they felt they were going to escape the coming invasion... their own efforts, their own covenant with death was one refuge

Isaiah 28:15 You boast, "We have entered into a covenant with death, with the grave we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place."

- g. God's promise and provision was the other refuge

Isaiah 28:16 So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed."

- h. The Apostle Paul quoted this passage earlier, saying in effect Christ is the tested cornerstone for a sure foundation... but the Jews stumbled over Him

Romans 9:33 As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

- i. Here Paul adds a little word to the quote: ANYONE

Romans 10:11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

3. God's Concern for Both Jew and Gentile

- a. The principle from Isaiah is the same as here in Romans 10
- b. You can trust in your own efforts or you can trust in God's provision
- c. Simply put, you can try to earn salvation by your own righteousness, or you can trust in Christ to be your righteousness
- d. And that offer is available to ANYONE... Jew or Gentile

B. Universal

1. One Universal God

Romans 10:12-13 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

- a. Jews believed there was one and only one God... and they were right
 - i) Most of the world at that time was polytheistic
 - ii) They believed that there were many gods, each with their limited domains
 - iii) They believed there were national gods, who watched over their own people
 - iv) The Jews claimed that their God made heaven, earth, the sea, and everything in them
 - v) The Jews claimed that their God ruled over all the kingdoms of men and set over each kingdom anyone He chose
 - vi) The Jews claimed that their God was judge of all the earth, before whom each nation and individual would give an account
- b. They failed to extend this simple truth to the salvation of the Gentiles... God is God of both Jew and Gentile alike

- i) They liked the idea of one universal God to condemn all Gentile sinners
- ii) They hated the idea of one universal God to save some Gentile sinners
- c. Paul had made this point abundantly clear earlier

Romans 3:29-30 Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, ³⁰ since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.

2. One Universal Need... COMMON to Jew and Gentile alike

- a. The point he'd made earlier: SIN is UNIVERSAL... common to Jew and Gentile alike

Romans 3:9-11 What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. ¹⁰ As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.

- b. Thus, there is One Universal Need... for MERCY

Romans 11:32 For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

3. One Universal Savior

- a. Christ came not just as Savior to the Jews
- b. There is one and only one creator
- c. So also there is one and only one redeemer, Jesus Christ, the Son of God
- d. He alone is the hope of all mankind, the Savior of the World

1 John 2:2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

- e. Isaiah saw this plainly... for God spoke through him what He had said to His only Begotten Son

Isaiah 49:6 "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

There is One Universal God, One Universal Need, and One Universal Savior

4. One Universal Gospel

- a. Jews and Gentiles are all saved the same way
- b. There are not two different ways for our sins to be forgiven
- c. Simple faith in Christ's death and resurrection... that's it!

Romans 10:11-13 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

C. "Anyone" and "Everyone"

- 1. Paul is stressing the universally accessible Christ... available to "anyone" and "everyone"

"Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

2. Romans 9 Not Thereby Undone

- a. This doesn't mean that what we learned in Romans 9 is no longer true
- b. God is still ultimate in human salvation... The doctrine of unconditional election is still true
- c. Romans 9 emphasizes that human will or effort is not ultimately determinative in salvation
- d. Romans 10 emphasizes that ANYONE and EVERYONE who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved
- e. Conversely, ANYONE and EVERYONE who does not call on the name of the Lord will not be saved
- f. I believe Romans 9 tells us WHO WILL call on the name of the Lord... those whom the Lord calls by His sovereign grace

Now... what is promised for ANYONE, Jew and Gentile alike, who trust in Christ? They will never be put to shame!

II. Escaping Judgment Day Shame

vs. 11 "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

A. Sin and Shame: Linked from Eden's Garden

- 1. Shame = sense of guilt, a desire to hide because of sin

2. It was the first effect of sin

a. In their innocence, Adam and Eve knew no shame whatsoever

Genesis 2:25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

b. The first effect of their sin was this: they immediately felt ashamed... first with each other, then with God

Genesis 3:7-10 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. ⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

3. Tozer: human sin is the cause of all shame in this world

A.W. Tozer: "Brethren, I am not ashamed of this world God created-I am only ashamed of man's sin! If you could take all of man's sin out of this world, there would be nothing to be ashamed of and nothing to be afraid of. Our apologies must be for humanity-and for our sins."

4. Fear of shame is one of the most powerful emotions in human society

a. Criminals cover their heads with their jackets so the TV and newspaper cameras cannot broadcast their identity around the world

b. Some commit suicide rather than face the public humiliation connected with some shameful act on their part

c. Teens readily admit one of the worst things they fear is being rejected publicly, thought of as strange or outcast... the feelings of shame can be overpowering

d. In Japan, saving face (freedom from public shame) is a major social force; one of the worst things you can do to someone is cause them to lose face

5. How much more on Judgment Day??

B. Shame on Judgment Day

1. Every careless word accounted for

2. Every sinful secret exposed

Romans 2:16 This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

Luke 12:3-5 *What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.* ⁴ *"I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more.* ⁵ *But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.*

3. Perfectly holy audience... the holy host of angels
4. Glorious and terrifying judge

Hebrews 4:13 *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

5. On earth... terrifying to be rejected by human beings
6. Even worse: to have Christ the Righteous Judge deny you

Matthew 7:21-23 *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.* ²² *Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'* ²³ *Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'*

7. The real question is this: How can I escape being put to shame on that day?
 - a. We all know we have sinned
 - b. We hide and cover and conceal
 - c. That day, everything will be laid bare
 - d. How can I escape Judgment Day shame???
8. A wrong way is to reverse the whole thing and be proud of what should cause shame... to be proud of sin

German Proverb: "Not to be ashamed of sin is to sin double"

Isaiah 3:9 *The look on their faces testifies against them; they parade their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it. Woe to them! They have brought disaster upon themselves.*

“Gay Pride day”... “Greed is good”... proud terrorists who justify their slaughter of innocent children

This is NOT the way to escape shame for sin!! It is a form of suppressing the truth in wickedness

C. Escaping Shame by Simple Faith

vs. 11 "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

1. Most straightforward way to understand this: "to be put to shame" means to trust in something that collapses, that fails, that ends up no refuge or shelter at all
2. This is a big theme in Isaiah

Isaiah 20:5-6 *Those who trusted in Cush and boasted in Egypt will be afraid and put to shame. ⁶ In that day the people who live on this coast will say, 'See what has happened to those we relied on, those we fled to for help and deliverance from the king of Assyria! How then can we escape?'"*

In those days, a conquered people were usually disgraced... their most precious possessions plundered; the symbols of their strength and achievement destroyed; their strongest warriors slaughtered and their bodies defiled; the survivors were stripped naked and forced to march down the street of the capital city of the conquering nation

Shame and humiliation was a big theme

Isaiah 28:16 says "Anyone who trusts in Christ will not be ultimately disappointed in their refuge... they will be vindicated in the end, victorious, triumphant on Judgment Day"

3. One major theme of not being put to shame: vindication over a personal enemy, who seeks our destruction

Psalm 25:1-3 *To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; ² in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. ³ No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.*

- a. Our personal enemy, the devil, has sought to bring us to shame on Judgment Day
- b. On that day, anyone who trusts in Christ will never be put to shame, but will be vindicated totally

Romans 8:31 *What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

Romans 16:20 *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.*

4. Christ came to remove all shame from the faces of His people
 - a. He will claim them as His own
 - b. His blood will cover them totally

- c. He will rebuke any who accuses them
 - d. All their sins will be removed from them as far as the east is from the west
5. Christ saved us from shame by being publicly ashamed for us
- a. He drank our shame when He was arrested
 - b. He drank our shame when He was rejected by the crowd
 - c. He drank our shame when He was condemned
 - d. He drank our shame when He was spat upon, mocked, scourged and beaten
 - e. He drank our shame when He was marched through the streets of Jerusalem carrying His cross
 - f. He drank our shame when He was stripped of His garments
 - g. He drank our shame when He was nailed to the cross and hung there, suspended between earth and sky for three hours just outside the gates of Jerusalem
 - h. He drank our shame when He died the death of a wicked man, His blood poured out on the mud
6. But Jesus knew all this shame, and did it anyway

Hebrews 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus has taken our Judgment Day shame on Himself, and absorbed it totally...

Therefore,

vs. 11 "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

BUT anyone who trusts in their own righteousness WILL be put to shame on that day... rejected, not vindicated... rejected and condemned eternally

Through simple faith in Christ, we are free from Judgment Day shame... but more than that—we are MADE RICH!!!

III. Christ's Richness for Anyone Who Believes

Romans 10:12-13 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

A. Christ Bestows Riches on Anyone Who Calls On Him

1. Christ owns the universe... all things have been given to Him
2. Christ has it all to give... He is the emperor of heaven and earth
3. He has promised an eternally glorious kingdom to anyone who calls on Him

B. Especially the Riches of His Grace and Mercy

Ephesians 1:7-8 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace⁸ that he lavished on us*

Ephesians 1:18 *I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,*

Ephesians 2:4-5 *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved.*

Ephesians 2:6-7 *And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

Anyone who calls on the name of Christ receives incomprehensible riches from God

- Total and complete forgiveness of all sins
- Adoption into the family of God
- Indwelling Holy Spirit to be with us forever
- A future inheritance so bright and glorious, it cannot be described with earthly words

And how do we receive this rich inheritance? How are we freed from all shame? By...

IV. Calling on the Name of the Lord

Romans 10:13 *for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

A. Ancient Practice

Genesis 4:25-26 *Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him."²⁶ Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD.*

1. From the time of Adam, Seth, and Enosh
2. Paul is showing how ancient is this practice... he is no doctrinal innovator
3. Sinners have always been saved the same way: calling on the name of the Lord in simple faith
4. The quote from Joel

Joel 2:28-32 'And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. ³⁰ I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ³² And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved

5. Quoted by Peter at Pentecost to explain the pouring out of the Holy Spirit
 - a. The Spirit had come in signs and wonder, tongues of fire and speaking in tongues
 - b. To the gathered crowd, Peter explained it in terms of the promise of Joel, that God would pour out His Spirit on ALL people
 - c. BUT even Peter did not understand that included the Gentiles
 - d. He would understand that more clearly at the house of a Roman centurion named Cornelius
6. Lesson: EVERYONE, Jew or Gentile, who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved
7. Now... what does it mean to "Call on the Name of the Lord"?

B. God's Name is His Character

Proverbs 22:1 A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

1. To call on the name of the Lord = to trust what God has revealed about His character
2. God has revealed His attributes in Scripture, His name is the sum of all that He has revealed about Himself through the prophets
3. God is HOLY, RIGHTEOUS, JUST, LOVING, FAITHFUL, TRUSTWORTHY, COMPASSIONATE, GRACIOUS, TENDERHEARTED

4. Scripture teaches this... a desperate sinners cried out to the God who has revealed Himself to be this kind of a God

C. God's Name is His History

1. To "Make a name for yourself" is to build a history of encounters which prove your character
2. Nehemiah spoke of this precise thing concerning the Exodus

Nehemiah 9:10 You sent miraculous signs and wonders against Pharaoh, against all his officials and all the people of his land, for you knew how arrogantly the Egyptians treated them. You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day.

3. God has built a reputation for Himself by His mighty acts in history
 - a. In creation, He proved Himself to be powerful, loving, and sovereign
 - b. In Noah's flood and at Sodom and Gomorrah, He proved Himself to be a terrifying enemy of sin
 - c. In keeping His promise to Abraham, He proved Himself to be faithful and trustworthy
 - d. In bringing Israel out of Egypt with ten devastating plagues, through the Red Sea in which He destroyed Pharaoh's awesome army... by baring His mighty hand and outstretched arm, God made a name for Himself that endures to this day
4. God makes a name for Himself precisely so that sinners will hear of His awesome achievements and great power and call on Him for salvation

Key example: Rahab

Joshua 2:10-13 We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt,... When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. ¹² Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign ¹³ that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and that you will save us from death."

Because God made a mighty name for Himself in the Exodus, Rahab the harlot feared for her life, and trusted in God's name for salvation

D. God's Name is His Promise

When a man signs his name to a contract, he is linking his reputation to fulfilling what he's promising to do... it is a point of honor to his name to keep his promise

1. God has revealed precious promises to us in Christ
2. Promises of full forgiveness of sins
3. Promises of eternal life
4. Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord is calling on Him to be a man of His word, faithful to let His "Yes" be yes and His "No" be no
5. All of God's promises come together in Christ... to trust Christ is to trust that all God has promised through Him will be given us

2 Corinthians 1:20 For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

E. God's Name is His Son, Jesus Christ

1. In Christ, God did mighty miracles... healing the sick, raising the dead, feeding the hungry, controlling the storms
2. Through Christ, God forgave repentant sinners tenderly and gently
3. By Christ's blood, God atoned for sin and displayed His justice and His loving mercy all at once
4. In Christ, God made a name for Himself to last all eternity: God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
5. Thus, to "Call on the Name of the Lord" is especially to call on Jesus Christ to save you from your sins

F. Calling: The Mark of Self-Desperation

Illus. Swimmer caught in a rip tide of the coast of Emerald Isle keeps trying to save himself by his own efforts as long as he possibly can... out of sheer pride and the desire to avoid embarrassment, he will try to save himself if he still thinks he can. But when he realizes all hope is lost, he will cry out in desperation "Help! Help! Save me!!" He doesn't care anymore about his public reputation... his life is at stake

A sinner who thinks he can save himself will not call on the name of the Lord

BUT anyone who calls on the name of the Lord in faith has come to believe what the Lord has said about his condition: "WITHOUT HOPE AND WITHOUT GOD IN THIS WORLD." Apart from Christ, you will perish

So the sinner calls, "Lord, Jesus Christ, save me! Save me from my sin!!"

G. The Bargain: He Gets the Glory, We Get the Joy

Psalm 50:15 call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me."

Charles Spurgeon once preached a sermon on this very topic and called it "Robinson Crusoe's Text." He began like this:

"Robinson Crusoe has been wrecked. He is left on the desert island all alone. His case is a very pitiable one. He goes to his bed, and he is smitten with fever. This fever lasts upon him long, and he has no one to wait upon him—none even to bring him a drink of cold water. He is ready to perish. He had been accustomed to sin, and had all the vices of a sailor; but his hard case brought him to think. He opens a Bible which he finds in his chest, and he lights upon this passage, "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." That night he prayed for the first time in his life, and ever after there was in him a hope in God, which marked the birth of the heavenly life."

Spurgeon then applied this powerfully to us in prayer:

"God and the praying man take shares First, here is your share: "Call upon me in the day of trouble." Secondly, here is God's share: "I will deliver thee." Again, you take a share—for you shall be delivered. And then again it is the Lord's turn—"Thou shalt glorify me." Here is a compact, a covenant that God enters into with you who pray to him, and whom he helps. He says, "You shall have the deliverance, but I must have the glory...." Here is a delightful partnership: we obtain that which we so greatly need, and all that God getteth is the glory which is due unto his name."

V. Application

A. Call on the Name of the Lord!

1. Know who He is

- a. The Lord Jesus Christ
- b. Son of the Eternal God, who is the Creator of the Universe and the Sustainer of all living things
- c. Jesus of Nazareth, born of the Virgin Mary
- d. Lived a sinless life
- e. Did countless miracles displaying His supernatural person and power
- f. Died on the cross for sins, shedding His blood
- g. Rose from the dead on the third day
- h. Ascended to heaven, sits at the right hand of God

- i. Who will someday judge the living and the dead
- 2. Know what He has threatened
 - a. All sin deserves eternal condemnation in hell
 - b. There “The word never dies, nor is the fire quenched”
 - c. Every human being who has ever lived has sinned... sinners have broken his holy commandments, and apart from His mercy, deserve eternal condemnation
- 3. Know what He has promised

Romans 10:11-13 "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

- 4. Call on His name
 - a. Call on Him to save you from sin
 - b. Call on Jesus to be your savior
 - c. Call on Jesus to be your redeemer, your Lord
- 5. CHRISTIANS: KEEP CALLING ON HIS NAME!!! Don't stop after you've been saved... keep calling, keep asking for help in the day of trouble, keep asking for the way of escape in temptation!!
- B. Give Him all the Glory for your salvation
- C. Proclaim His Name
- D. Live for the Glory of His Name