

Sunday, March 28th, 2010

**Living Hope EFC**

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Salvation – made so easy, you really have to try to miss it. 10:5-21.

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**JOKE:** Rivalry between Methodists & Baptists. Green, 308

On the American frontier denominational differences were taken seriously. The story is told of a young Methodist minister who was asked to conduct a funeral for a Baptist. Since ministers were in short supply and he was the only one for miles around, he was unsure what to do. He performed the funeral and wrote to his bishop, asking if he had made the right decisions and requesting some general guidelines for the future. His bishop's reply was brief: "**Bury all the Baptists you can.**"

In the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, this was the sentiment of most Jews toward Christians, and especially toward Paul and other preachers.

WHY? Because he taught things such as those in Rom.9:30-10:4.

**There are a few major transitions in history** where God changes the way He administrates man's relationship to Him. **One such major transition occurred when Israel rejected their long awaited Messiah**, sent by God to establish His kingdom among them. The Messiah, rejected & crucified, God began dealing with mankind in new terms - of the cross.

- Israel – was no longer the main actor on history's stage.
- The Gentile world was fast replacing them. The CHURCH was born.

**Rom.9:25-10:4 = How Israel lost God, and the Gentiles found Him:**

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Rom.9:25-29 God foretold this shift through His prophets.

Rom.9:30-10:4 = **How it happened in real time?**

- Israel pursued righteousness by their system of works! 9:31,32
- *Second...* they wouldn't trust God/ Christ! 9:32-33
- *Third* - they had great religious zeal but lacked knowledge. 10:2 (Here is the damning difference between religion and relationship!)
- *Fourth:* they rejected Christ as their righteousness. 10:4.

10:5-13 God has put salvation within the reach of every person.

μεν: 10:5 – No one can be made righteous by living up to the Law.

- **Gal.3:10-12. Rom.10:4, 3:20**

δε: 10:6-13 – Anyone can be made r'ous by faith in Jesus Christ.

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**Vs.6-8: What in the world is Paul talking about?**

- Paul uses a quote from Moses in **Deut.30:11-20.**

- Moses is saying: "Look, here is God's Word, clear & simple. You don't have to wonder **what** God has said, **what** He expects or **what** you must do. *He has spoken. Just believe & obey Him & live!*"

- **God is not trying to hide His Word from us, it is not too difficult.**

**APPLY:** Paul = "God will make righteous everyone who puts his faith in Christ. It is no more complicated than that. Just believe & do it."

**Vs.9-10: Believe & acknowledge that Jesus is Lord & be saved.**

- Faith in Jesus' death & resurrection is not difficult to understand.
- It is faith in who Jesus claimed to be (Lord), & that He was raised from the dead. *Confession* is the natural result of *faith*.

**NOTE:** the word "**saved**," clearly describes what happens; **v.1,9,10,13**.

- (Saved from what?) "Saved" implies our lives are in danger.

**ILLUS:** *What kind of people need saving?* **Ans:** "Those in great peril."

- Drowning. Kidnapped. House is on fire. Those lost in a snowstorm.
- **We are in peril!** *What is our peril?* Rom.3:10,23 > Heb.9:27 > **John.3:36** "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for **God's wrath** remains on him."
- **Sin demands judgment.** All are sinners. Righteousness is the opposite of sin. R'ness is a gift from God, through faith in Christ.
- **God's message can't get any simpler than that! "Just do it!"**

**Vs.11-13: God's message is simple & available to everyone.**

- All people are sinners, the same. God's remedy is the same for all.
- What could be simpler than that? **2 Pet.3:9**

**ILLUS:** Man tried to give away \$1 million to friends.

**You would think that men would clamor for such a free gift!**

The story has been told of a **wealthy man** who became a Christian. He tried to reach out to his friends with the gift of salvation he found.

- He would tell them with great enthusiasm what happened to him.
- How the Lord had changed his life, and saved his marriage.
- But his words seemed to fall on **deaf ears**. They were not interested.

Since he had great wealth, he developed a plan.

- First, he wrote out a check for a million dollars, which everyone knew he was good for.
- Then, he visited his friends and said, "I have always highly regarded you as a friend and have wanted to do something for you. Would you receive this check as a gift from me?"

People would look at the check and, seeing the amount, they'd hand it back saying, "I can't take that from you."

- He tried to give the check to many of his friends, but **no one** would take it, even though it was a valid & sincere offer.
- **Finally, he realized that people are not willing to receive great gifts without having some part in them.** – Green, 314

- **It's difficult to believe such a gift is free for the taking!**
- Men want to think they someone deserve or earn what they attain.

10:14-17 Every person needs to hear this message and believe!

**POINT:** There is a natural means by which people come to know Christ.

- God usually uses Christians to share the Gospel so people are saved.
- It doesn't matter what we believe about predestination, this is the means by which people around the world will come to know Christ.

**ILLUS:** Mosab Hassan Yousef's "duty from God to announce His name"

- Christian, you & I hold the message that God wants everyone to hear.
- We are Christ's BODY in the world, to carry out His Great Mission.

10:18-21 It is the responsibility of the hearer to believe or reject

**Q.1: (v.18) Did Israel (all men) hear God's message?**

- **Answer: Psalm 19:1-4a.** μ&v: All mankind have heard the message of a divine Creator – **Rom.1:20.** δε: Israel, had special Revelation!

**Q.2: (v.19) Did they not understand God's message?**

- Answer: Deut.30:11-20. Rom.10:19 is a quote from Deut.32:21.
- **POINT:** They had understood! They simple did not obey.

**V.20-21 = Isaiah 65:1-3. They simply didn't obey!**

God appealed to Israel unceasingly – from Moses to Malachi.

- Finally he sent "Elijah" and the Son of God, Himself – **Mal.3:1-2.**

HERE IS WHERE THE GREAT HISTORICAL TRANSITION CAME ABOUT

(Matthew's Account)

(1) Christ is introduced as "King of the Jews."

- 1:20, 2:2,6 "Where is the King?" 3:2-3 J.B. 3:11 He will baptize H.S.

(2) Jesus' message: "The KOG is near!" - 4:17, 23; 6:33; 8:11; 9:1-6,33,34

- (Mark 1:15 "The time has come, the KOG is near.")

(3) He went FIRST to Israel, avoiding Gentiles: 10:5-7.

(4) He authenticated Himself by miracles: 11:3-6 = Isaiah 35:4-6.

(5) The nation's leaders rejected Him as their King: 12:8 > 12:14, 23-28.

**(6) Christ reveals the MAJOR SHIFT, the NEW FORM of the KOG.**

- 12:39-41. At the judgment this generation will be condemned.
- 12:46-50 = Not physical, but spiritual relationship counts.
- 13:11 – Christ begins sharing "**The mysteries of the KOH.**"

- **The Parables** reveal the form of God's administration of His K'dom – between the time of Christ's rejection and His Second Coming.
- God's focus turns to the whole world. **16:18 = Christ's Church!**
- It was not for lack of knowledge, privilege or opportunity that Israel lost God, and the Gentiles found Him, it was due totally to disobedience. A "**calloused heart!**" – Matt.13:14-15a.

**ILLUS:** Max Lucado, *The Angels were Silent*, 73-74.

## CLOSE

1- God does everything possible to get us to take His nail-pierced hand and enter eternal life. It is not for lack of knowledge, privilege or opportunity that we forfeit His best.

- It is because of stubborn refusal to believe Him and obey His Word.

2- **Repeated refusals** eventually result in **calloused hearts**, that no longer hear God's appeals, or understand His Word.

**Quote:** Churchill: "Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up as if nothing had happened." –Ntbk, *Truth*, 3b

3- Have you heard & understood, AND believed in Christ?

**On a scale of 1 – 10**, how sure are you that you will go to heaven?

- Do you want to make it a "10?" - Rom.10:9-10. Will you do it?