

**October 6, 2021**

## **Man's Need of Salvation**

**Romans 10:1-10** is a classic passage on salvation. Before we begin to break it down verse by verse, take time to read the passage in its entirety. Notice who Paul is writing to. He is writing to those in Rome who are saved on behalf of those of the nation of Israel who are not saved. His initial expression is his desire for his countrymen to be saved. Herein we see their need to be saved. Being a Jew or a follower of the law was not sufficient grounds for salvation. Salvation was dependent upon one's faith in Jesus Christ. As we consider man's need of salvation, notice three truths.

First, man is lost in ignorance. Men do not come to Christ for salvation, because they are ignorant of their need for salvation. How are the lost described in **John 12:39-40** and **II Corinthians 4:3-4**? Have you ever witnessed to someone only to discover they could not see the truth, because of their blindness? They live in darkness, **Ephesians 5:8**, **Colossians 1:12-14**, **I Thessalonians 5:4-5**, and **I Peter 2:9**. The lost are described as being in darkness because their eyes and minds are blind to the truth of the gospel. Their hearts are hardened, and they are spiritually dead, **Ephesians 2:1,12**. Without God they have no hope. The Psalmist describes them in **Psalms 58:4-5** as being "like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear; which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely." The natural heart of man has no desire for God and because he is spiritually blind, he is ignorant of his own need. How then can a man be saved?

Second, we see the Spirit's illumination. No one is ever saved apart from the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God has to open the eyes of the blind and convict the hardened heart before a person can be saved, **Ephesians 1:17-19**. The Spirit enlightens the mind to give wisdom and understanding. His tool to accomplish this is the Word of God. **Ephesians 6:17** identifies the Word of God as the Spirit's Sword, a sword that is sharper than any two-edged sword, **Hebrews 4:12**. In John 3, Jesus refers to salvation as a new birth. Every birth involves two parents. A physical birth requires a father (male) and a mother (female). Two men cannot produce off-spring and two women cannot produce off-spring. It requires a male and a female. Spiritual birth also involves two parents. These are identified in **John 3:5** as the water and the spirit. The spirit refers to the Spirit of God. No one is born again apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, but what is the water? Some think the water refers to the waters of baptism, but this interpretation is inconsistent with scripture which teaches salvation through Christ and Christ alone. The answer is found in **Ephesians 5:26**. The water is the Word of God. The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to convict the lost of their sin and to reveal God's plan of salvation.

Third, we see the apostle's concern. Paul's desire and prayer was for the salvation of his people, the Jews. How concerned are you for your people? Do you have friends and family who are lost? To what degree do you witness to them and pray for them? Does it bother you that they have no hope? **I Corinthians 15:34** "Awake to righteousness and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame." **II Peter 3:9** "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not

willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” If God is not willing for any to perish, why should we be willing to let them die in their ignorance?

Think of someone you know who is lost and pray for them. Then ask God to give you an opportunity and the boldness to speak to them about their spiritual need. Time is of the essence. No one has a guarantee of tomorrow. If they die without Christ, they will perish for all eternity. May the Lord give us hearts of compassion for those who are abiding under the wrath of God. And remember, you and I were once one of them.