

The Word Is Near You; Romans 10:8-10

I. Fulfillment

- A. We, as humans, are constantly looking for fulfillment — something to fill a void that we feel
- B. *“The Donut Man”* — a video program for children with a Gospel theme
- C. The saying is truthful, there is a hole in the middle of our heart without Jesus
- D. We are constantly searching to fill that hole with something — more often than not it is something other than Jesus — love, power, fame, wealth, euphoria
- E. This saying is true and trustworthy — Jesus fills the hole in our hearts

II. Near

- A. Romans 10:5–8 (ESV); ⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. ⁶ But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);
- B. Paul refers to Moses statement in Deuteronomy
 1. Deuteronomy 30:11–14 (ESV); ¹¹ “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹⁴ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.
 2. Moses is telling the Israelites that they do not have to search for the law that God has given them — you don’t have to go up to heaven to find it; you don’t have to go across the sea, either
 3. Paul says the same thing — you don’t have to ascend to heaven to find Christ; you don’t have to descend into the abyss to find Him, either — He is right here!
 4. The word is near — “That is, the word of faith that we proclaim” (verse 8b)
 5. The Gospel is in our grasp!

III. Confess and Believe

- A. Confession is central to salvation
 1. Romans 10:9–10 (ESV); ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.
 2. To share a common view or be of common mind about a matter, agree ¹
 3. To agree with publicly
 4. A public profession of faith is very important
 5. Matthew 10:32 (ESV); So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,
 6. John 9:22 (ESV); (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)
 7. John 12:42 (ESV); Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue;

¹ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 708.

8. 1 Timothy 6:12 (ESV); Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
 9. 1 John 2:23 (ESV); No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.
- B. Believe (faith) is central to salvation
1. Hebrews 11:6 (ESV); And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
 2. John 6:29 (ESV); Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."
 3. John 20:30–31 (ESV); ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
 - a) Jesus turns water to wine (ch. 2)
 - b) Jesus heals the official's son (ch. 4)
 - c) Jesus heals the invalid at the pool of Bethesda (ch. 5)
 - d) Jesus feeds 5000 (ch. 6)
 - e) Jesus walks on Water (ch. 6)
 - f) Jesus heals the man born blind (ch. 9)
 - g) Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (ch. 11)
 - h) Jesus' resurrection (ch. 20)
 4. Peter spends the majority of his sermon (what we have written down for us) persuading the Israelites to believe that Jesus is the Messiah
 5. Acts 2:36 (ESV); Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."
- C. But, to think that confession and belief are the only conditions of salvation misses the other pairings
1. Acts 2:37–38 (ESV); ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 2. Mark 16:16 (ESV); Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
- IV. True Salvation
- A. Salvation is the fulfillment we are desperately searching for!
 - B. It is only found in Jesus Christ
 - C. It is our hearing — of the Gospel that is so near to us — that brings about our salvation
 - D. It is our belief — that He is the Anointed One who fulfilled God's plan by His sacrifice — that brings about salvation
 - E. It is our confession — our agreement that Jesus is the Messiah and our public profession of Him as the Christ — that brings about salvation
 - F. It is our repentance — of our unbelief and our sinful life — that brings about salvation
 - G. It is our baptism — contacting Jesus' blood, being washed clean of our sins — that brings about salvation
 - H. It is our steadfastness — in the face of trials, pain, even imminent death — that brings about salvation
 - I. Have you achieved true salvation — true fulfillment?