

## **The End of the Law**

August 13, 2017

### **Romans 10: 5-15**

<sup>5</sup> Moses said that a person could become acceptable to God by obeying the Law. He did this when he wrote, "If you want to live, you must do all that the Law commands." <sup>6</sup> But people whose faith makes them acceptable to God will never ask, "Who will go up to heaven to bring Christ down?" <sup>7</sup> Neither will they ask, "Who will go down into the world of the dead to raise him to life?" <sup>8</sup> All who are acceptable because of their faith simply say, "The message is as near as your mouth or your heart." And this is the same message we preach about faith. <sup>9</sup> So you will be saved, if you honestly say, "Jesus is Lord," and if you believe with all your heart that God raised him from death. <sup>10</sup> God will accept you and save you, if you truly believe this and tell it to others. <sup>11</sup> The Scriptures say that no one who has faith will be disappointed, <sup>12</sup> no matter if that person is a Jew or a Gentile. There is only one Lord, and he is generous to everyone who asks for his help. <sup>13</sup> All who call out to the Lord will be saved. <sup>14</sup> How can people have faith in the Lord and ask him to save them, if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear, unless someone tells them? <sup>15</sup> And how can anyone tell them without being sent by the Lord? The Scriptures say it is a beautiful sight to see even the feet of someone coming to preach the good news.



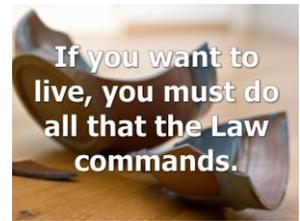
This week we move into the fifth message in our “Broken” series. Last week, Kristin began the conversation about God’s grace. To review, grace is the free and undeserved gift of love and mercy that God offers to all people. We can do nothing to

earn grace or to get more grace. It is simply offered to all people by God. Grace is also something that works in our lives to help draw us closer to God. And lastly, as we come to understand and accept this wonderful gift from God, we are led to share grace with others. You were challenged last week to consider serving God by going to Sioux Falls to minister to others at the Banquet.

Yesterday a group of seventeen from our church responded to God’s call to love others. We went to the Banquet and were a part of meeting a need in Sioux Falls by feeding people who were hungry. We also were blessed to sit and talk with some new friends, to get to know their story and to share some of who we are with them.

For the past few Sundays, you have been invited to come to the worship and picnic in the park tonight that begins at 5:00 pm. From last week’s passage, Romans 9:1 reads, “*I am a follower of Christ, and the Holy Spirit is a witness to my conscience*”. Last week you were reminded that if you make this claim to be a follower of Christ, then it is your ‘privilege’ to share the message of grace with those who have not yet heard the good news. It is my hope and prayer that many of you will exercise that privilege tonight as we gather with the larger community to worship and fellowship. Let us pray.

In today's passage from Romans 10, Paul begins with Moses' words about being obedient to the Law and the requirements of the Law. Moses wrote, *"If you want to live, you must do all that the Law commands"*. The key word here is "all". But one simply cannot keep ALL of the Law. It was impossible to keep all 613 laws that were in place by the time of Jesus. Yes, 613 laws that all must be kept. A good Pharisee or Sadducee would be sure to point out that if you broke just one of those laws, you would be as guilty as if you broke them all. Living under the Law and its many requirements was a very tough road to walk.



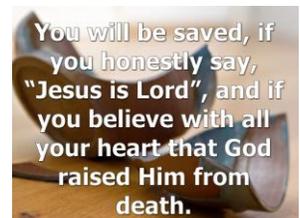
To relate this to our world today, a few simple questions. Have you ever driven just a few miles over the speed limit? Have you ever arrived late to work or school and slipped in unnoticed and let it go at that? Have you ever told a fellow church member that you did not have time to help out when you really did? Have you ever not been totally honest in your response to a question from your spouse or child or parent? Have you ever joined in the gossip at the gym or at work or in the back of the Sanctuary? And for our younger folk – have you ever lied to a teacher or coach or your parents? Have you ever told a friend you were busy when you really were not? We all know that these are things we should not do. Many are things that God would look at as 'sin'. Yes, we are all guilty of at least a few of these. So, is it possible to be good ALL the time? Is it possible to follow every letter of every law? Well, it was not any easier in Jesus' day either.





God knew that mankind could not keep all of the Law. There would never be enough animal or other sacrifices to atone for the ongoing sins of the people. We the people would not, and probably could not and cannot, stop sinning. So, the system to deal with sin had to change. Jesus himself pointed out that the Law showed us our sin, but it could not correct our behavior or forgive our sin. The old covenant that established the Law and the consequences for breaking the Law needed to be made new. Jesus had to come and live and eventually die and be resurrected to provide humanity a new way to eternal life. Jesus taught a new way to live. He taught that love was the most important thing. Through Jesus, a new covenant was established. Jesus came and He brought hope and love into the world.

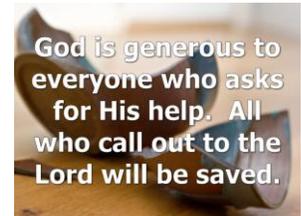
Jesus offers each of us a personal relationship. It is through a personal relationship with Jesus that we can each be saved. Paul writes in verse nine, *"You will be saved, if you honestly say, "Jesus is Lord," and if you believe with all your heart that God raised him from death"*. To have a relationship with Jesus, we first have to profess with our lips that He is the Lord of our lives and we have to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. When we profess Jesus as Lord, then our lives begin to change. As our relationship deepens, we become less so that Jesus can become more. Through our belief that God raised Jesus from the dead we find our hope for salvation and eternal life.





Paul goes on in the next two verses to remind the Romans and us that God will accept us and save us if we believe this and tell it to others. He also writes that no one who has faith in Jesus will be disappointed because "*God*

*is generous to everyone who asks for His help. All who call out to the Lord will be saved*".



*All who call out to the Lord will be saved.* There are many in our community, nation, and world who need to be saved. There are many living outside of a personal relationship with the only one who can save - Jesus Christ. We all know someone we wish had a relationship with Jesus Christ. We all do. We pray for them, we try and share our faith with them. And these folks that we know are just the tip of the iceberg. In just our community there are hundreds of people who are hurting or struggling through life, seeking to find meaning and happiness. Some in this situation try and find happiness through a variety of harmful and destructive behaviors. In just our community there are hundreds of people who have a 'good life' but feel that something is missing or that there has to be more to life than what they currently know. And in our community, there are hundreds and hundreds who are broken and lost and afraid. Some feel underserving of God's love and others feel unworthy of His love because of something they have done. Others feel alone and separated. Still others are dying and fear what is to come. All need Jesus. All need a redeemer. All need a Messiah. Please turn your attention to this video called "The Face of Grace". It illustrates all people's need for Jesus – regardless of whether or not we know it - and His response.

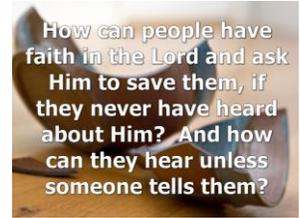




Let me repeat the last lines of the video. "He carried our cross. He bore our sins. He died our death so we can go home. This is love. This is mercy. This is grace". You and I cherish this free gift of grace. Today we will celebrate the sacrifice Jesus made and the forgiveness of sins that come from the bod broken and the blood shed on the cross. Today we will rejoice that we are made new and holy and perfect in God's sight because of what Jesus did on the cross. Yet out there are many who do not know Jesus. They are broken and lost and afraid. They feel underserving and unworthy. They feel alone and separated. They fear dying and what it may bring. There are many in our community who do not know Jesus. Tonight we hope some will come to worship and the picnic who do not know Jesus. We hope and pray that tonight some will come to know Jesus. We hope and pray this because we know what Jesus has done for us. He has redeemed us with His blood. He has saved us through His resurrection. He loves us without limits. He is Lord.

For us, as Christians, Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law. God's intent to be one with God's people is manifest in Jesus Christ. Jesus was God's love lived out on this earth. Through that love, Jesus can heal the broken relationships that exist between the Creator and the created, between God and mankind. Jesus is the One that God sent to save the world. It is Jesus who redeems us and reconciles us to the God who loves us. In the place of the Law and its 613 commandments are the new commandments to love God with all of our being and to love our neighbor as ourself. We know and believe this. This is our faith. Yet many do not know Jesus. Many do not have a saving relationship with Jesus.

Verse fourteen from our passage addresses this: *“How can people have faith in the Lord and ask him to save them, if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear, unless someone tells them?”* So many need to hear the good news of Jesus’ love and mercy and grace. This is what heals the brokenness that so many feel. I too ask, how can people have faith and ask Jesus to save them if they have never heard about Him? How can they profess Jesus as Lord if they do not know Jesus? And how can they hear unless someone tells them?



Are you thankful for the love and mercy and grace that you know through your relationship with Jesus Christ? Are you thankful? Then tell someone the good news of Jesus Christ. Tonight we hope some will come to worship and the picnic who do not know Jesus. We hope and pray that tonight some will come to know Jesus. Won't you come and tell someone the good news? Let us pray.

### **GPS – Grow, Pray, Serve**

- 1) How do you 'exercise' the privilege of telling others the good news of Jesus Christ? If you do not, what small step can you take to begin sharing?
- 2) In what areas of your life is Jesus truly Lord? In what areas are you still the lord of your life? How do you begin giving these areas to Jesus?
- 3) Who do you know that does not know Jesus? Pray for the Spirit to lead you to share Jesus with this person so that they can come to know grace.

