

I AM Not Ahamed – Romans 10:1-21  
Pleasant View Church of Christ – Fall 2023

The Problem of the Gospel (cont.)

Things to Remember:

God is **Sovereign**  
-Psa 135:6  
-Dan 4:35  
-Eph 1:11

God is **Omniscient**  
-Jn 21:17  
-1Jn 3:20  
-Heb 4:13  
-Jer 1:5  
-Isa 46:10

Man has **Free Will**  
-Jn 3:16  
-Act 16:30,31

Salvation is **Available to All**  
-Rom 5:18-19

(1-4) The Jews did not understand the nature of God's plan of righteousness based on Faith.

Paul understands their predicament because this was his own condition prior to conversion:  
\*Acts 22:3-5  
\*Gal 1:13-14  
\*Phil 3:4-6

<sup>1</sup>Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that **they may be saved**.

<sup>2</sup>For I bear them witness that **they** have a zeal for God, but **not according to knowledge**.

<sup>3</sup>For, being ignorant of the **righteousness** of God, and seeking to **establish their own**, they did not submit to **God's righteousness**.

<sup>4</sup>For Christ is the **end of the law** for righteousness to everyone who believes. <- Dying to the law through Christ (Rom 7)

(5-8) The Christ has already come down to this earth, died, rose from the grave, and ascended into heaven. We don't need to look for him elsewhere. Salvation through him is available now.

<sup>5</sup>For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.

<sup>6</sup>But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to **bring Christ down**)

<sup>7</sup>"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to **bring Christ up from the dead**).

<sup>8</sup>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);

Something that is impossible with man  
-Rom 3:20

Deut 30:12-14

What does it mean to "Believe?"  
-Matt 22:34-40  
-John 3:16  
-Acts 4:12  
-Acts 13:38-39  
-James 2:14-26

(9-13) God's plan of righteousness is available for EVERYONE who confesses in, believes in, calls on God. These phrases were intended to summarize putting faith in God instead of ourselves, NOT define every detail of what required to receive salvation.

What is the emphasis in these verses?  
What is the key word?

**Calls on the Name of the Lord** = Calling on God to do something for us that we cannot do for ourselves.  
-Acts 22:14-16

<sup>9</sup>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**. Is confession a one-time action?

<sup>10</sup>For with the heart one **believes** and is justified, and with the mouth one **confesses** and **is saved**.

<sup>11</sup>For the Scripture says, "**Everyone** who **believes in him** will not be put to shame." < Isa 28:16

<sup>12</sup>For *there is no distinction* between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on **all** who call on him.

<sup>13</sup>For "**everyone** who *calls on the name of the Lord* will be saved." < Acts 2:21; Joel 2:32

Is baptism included in believing?  
-Mark 16:16  
-Acts 2:37,38  
-Acts 8:35,36  
-Acts 9:1-19; 22:1-16

Interpreting "calls on the name of the Lord" as a "sinner's prayer" deemphasizes the commitment required to receive salvation through God's plan  
-Matt 7:21-27  
-Luke 6:46-49

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(14-18) In order to make salvation available to **EVERYONE**, the gospel had to be preached to **EVERYONE** (Even the Gentiles)

<sup>14</sup>How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

The Gospel is for **EVERYONE (11-13)**, but how can they receive it if they don't hear it? This is **WHY** the Gospel message went out to the Gentiles!

Isa 52:7

<sup>15</sup>And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!*"

Isa 53:1; Jn 12:38

<sup>16</sup>But **they have not all obeyed the gospel**. For Isaiah says, "*Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?*"

Man has a choice when receiving the Gospel:

- (1) Obey
- (2) Not Obey

**Rom 6:15-19**

<sup>17</sup>So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the **word of Christ**. <- James 1:19-21

Psa 19:4

<sup>18</sup>But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for "*Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.*"

(19-21) The Jews should not have been surprised that the gospel went to the Gentiles, because it had been prophesied in OT Scripture.

<sup>19</sup>But I ask, **did Israel not understand?** First Moses says, "*I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.*"

Deut 32:21

<sup>20</sup>Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, "*I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me.*"

Isa 65:1-2

<sup>21</sup>But of Israel he says, "*All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.*"

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**Romans Chapter 10 - Questions for Discussion**

***Memory Verse:***

***Romans 10:12-13 (ESV)***

*<sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

How was Jewish zeal misplaced? In what way did they try to establish their own righteousness? (vv. 2, 3)

In what way do the questions “Who will ascend into heaven?” and “Who will descend into the deep?” demonstrate a lack of faith? This is a demonstration of a misconception that the Jews had...what is that misconception? (vv. 6-8)

Do the thoughts expressed in verses 9-13 nullify the need for repentance and baptism? Is confession a one-time action?

How does verse 13 reconcile with Acts 2:38? (vv. Acts 22:14-16; Mt 7:21-23; Lk 6:46-49)

What does it mean to “call on the name of the Lord?”

What is the emphasis of verses 12 - 13? What word?

What practice is Paul defending in verses 14 & 15?

What should the Israelites have known that was prophesied by both Moses and Isaiah? (vv. 19-21; Deut 32:21; Isaiah 65:1)

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**God is Sovereign**

**Psalms 135:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

**Daniel 4:35 (ESV)**

<sup>35</sup> all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”

**Ephesians 1:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, **having been predestined** according to the purpose of him who works all things **according to the counsel of his will,**

**God is Omniscient**

**John 21:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, **“Lord, you know everything;** you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

**1 John 3:19-20 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; <sup>20</sup> for whenever our heart condemns us, **God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.**

**Hebrews 4:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> And **no creature is hidden from his sight,** but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

**Jeremiah 1:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> **“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,** and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

**Isaiah 46:8-10 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> “Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, <sup>9</sup> remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’

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**Man has Free Will**

**John 3:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**Acts 16:30-31 (ESV)**

<sup>30</sup> Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup> And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

**Salvation is Available to All**

**Romans 5:18-19 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. <sup>19</sup> For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

**Paul’s Past**

**Acts 22:14-16 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; <sup>15</sup> for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup> And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

**Galatians 1:13–14 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup> And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.

**Philippians 3:4–6 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

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**Moses Said**

**Deuteronomy 30:12–14 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> 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?' <sup>13</sup> 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?' <sup>14</sup> But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

**Believe in Jesus**

**Isaiah 28:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> therefore thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'

**Matthew 22:34-40 (ESV)**

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. <sup>35</sup> And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

**John 3:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes in him** should not perish but have eternal life.

**Acts 4:11-12 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

**Acts 13:38-39 (ESV)**

<sup>38</sup> Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him **everyone who believes is freed from everything** <sup>39</sup> from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

**Romans 13:8-10 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

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**James 2:14-26 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. <sup>18</sup> But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. <sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! <sup>20</sup> Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; <sup>23</sup> and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"— and he was called a friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup> And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? <sup>26</sup> For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

**Baptism's Role in Belief**

**Mark 16:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

**Acts 2:37-38 (ESV)**

<sup>37</sup> 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?" <sup>38</sup> 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.

**Acts 8:35-37 (ESV)**

<sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" <sup>37</sup>

**Acts 9:1–19 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. <sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?**" <sup>5</sup> And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "**I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.** <sup>6</sup> **But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.**" <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood

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speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, **“Ananias.”** And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” <sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to him, **“Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”** <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, **“Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup> For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”** <sup>17</sup> So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup> and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.

**Acts 22:1-16 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> “Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.”

<sup>2</sup> And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:

<sup>3</sup> “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. <sup>4</sup> I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, <sup>5</sup> as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

<sup>6</sup> “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. <sup>7</sup> And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, **‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’** <sup>8</sup> And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, **‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’** <sup>9</sup> Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. <sup>10</sup> And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, **‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’** <sup>11</sup> And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

<sup>12</sup> “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, <sup>13</sup> came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. <sup>14</sup> And he



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said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; <sup>15</sup> for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup> And now why do you wait? **Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.**’

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord...”

***Illustration** – Earlier this year I was playing in a golf scramble with my father, my cousin (Ricky Haskins), and a good friend who is also a preacher (Wayne Miller). Just as we came into the clubhouse at the end of the round it began a torrential downpour with high winds. We were sitting at a table eating lunch while the storm was happening and watching the Weather Channel on a television that was mounted on the wall. I left the table to get my meal from the buffet, and when I came back the meteorologist on TV was talking about a tornado warning and advising viewers to take immediate cover because the tornado had been sighted. Since it seemed like our local conditions were very conducive to a tornado, I said something to the effect of “that doesn’t sound good!” Immediately my preaching friend said, “that is in Indiana.” I looked at my friend and with a laugh said, “I guess context matters.”*

Just like I completely misinterpreted the local situation due to my lack of context, we also can very easily misinterpret scripture when we fail to place it into the proper context. One prominent example of this is Romans 10:13:

**Romans 10:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

**(1) Confusion**

This verse is often taken to mean that we simply need to verbally ask God to come into our lives to receive salvation, which is frequently referred to as the “Sinner’s Prayer.”

***Illustration** – When I was first working at Gospel Advocate Company I remember leaving the office and finding a tract under my windshield wiper on my car. It was from Tony Alamo Christian Ministries. I don’t remember the overall content of the tract, but vividly remember that it ended with an encouragement to pray a prayer to receive salvation. The following is from a Tony Alamo tract in 1997 and also contains an example of the “Sinner’s Prayer.”*

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**Sinner’s Prayer – From Tony Alamo in January 1997 – “God’s Mystery Finished”**

If you, in this troublesome world, would love to have God’s strength, joy, peace, and happiness, with a full assurance of immortality with Him in the kingdom of Heaven, the most beautiful, enjoyable vacation spot in the universe, knowing you have it forever, then begin your possession of it now by simply saying this prayer:

Prayer: My Lord and my God, have mercy upon my soul, a sinner. 1 I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God. 2 I believe that He died on the cross and shed His precious blood for the forgiveness of all my sins. 3 I believe that God raised Jesus from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit 4 and that He sits on the right hand of God at this moment, hearing my confession of sin and this prayer. 5 I open up the door of my heart and I invite You into my heart, Lord Jesus. 6 Wash all of my filthy sins away in the precious blood that You shed in my place on the cross at Calvary. 7 You will not turn me away, Lord Jesus, You will forgive my sins and save my soul. I know because Your Word, the Bible says so. 8 Your Word says that You will turn no one away, and that includes me. 9 Therefore, I know that You have heard me, and I know that You have answered me, and I know that I am saved. 10 And I thank You, Lord Jesus, for saving my soul, and I will show my thankfulness by doing as You command and sin no more. 11<sup>1</sup>

**2012 – Southern Baptist Convention Debate (from Christianity Today)**

The vote wasn't taken with every head bowed and every eye closed, but delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting today supported the "Sinner's Prayer" after considerable debate.

Jimmy Scroggins, chairman of the SBC Committee on Resolutions, told the convention that the committee brought the resolution to the floor because of recent challenges to the emphasis on the Sinner's Prayer—usually a prayer of repentance to "invite Jesus into your heart" that has become a hallmark of evangelical conversionism.

The committee wanted "to affirm our commitment to evangelism and to calling people to make a decision for Jesus Christ," Scroggins said. "We affirm that repentance and faith involve a crying out for mercy and a calling on the Lord (Rom. 10:13), often identified as a 'Sinner's Prayer,' as a biblical expression of repentance and faith," the resolution said. But it added, "A 'Sinner's Prayer' is not an incantation that results in salvation merely by its recitation and should never be manipulatively employed or utilized apart from a clear articulation of the gospel (Matt. 6:7; 15:7–9)."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Alamo, Tony, "God’s Mystery Finished." *Tony Alamo Christian Ministries*. January 1997. Web 27 November 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Olsen, David. "Southern Baptists Debate the Sinner's Prayer." *Christianity Today*. 20 June 2012. Web 27 November 2015.

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**Plan of Salvation from [PeachWithGod.net](http://PeachWithGod.net) (part of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Assoc)**

**STEP 1**

**God loves you and has a plan for you!** The Bible says, “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, [Jesus Christ], that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16). Jesus said, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” — a complete life full of purpose (John 10:10).

**STEP 2**

**Man is sinful and separated from God.** We have all done, thought or said bad things, which the Bible calls “sin.” The Bible says, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). The result of sin is death, spiritual separation from God (Romans 6:23). The good news?

**STEP 3**

**God sent His Son to die for your sins!** Jesus died in our place so we could live with Him in eternity. “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). But it didn’t end with His death on the cross. He rose again and still lives!

**STEP 4**

**Would you like to receive God’s forgiveness?** We can’t earn salvation; we are saved by God’s grace when we have faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. All you have to do is believe you are a sinner, that Christ died for your sins, and ask His forgiveness. Then turn from your sins—that’s called repentance. Jesus Christ knows you and loves you. What matters to Him is the attitude of your heart, your honesty. We suggest praying the following prayer to accept Christ as your Savior:

**PRAY NOW**

"Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. Guide my life and help me to do your will. In your name, amen."

Did you pray this prayer? → **I Prayed The Prayer**

We’re excited that you have made a commitment to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and serve Him as your Lord. This is the most important day of your life!<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> “Begin Your Journey to Peace.” *PeachWithGod.net*. Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Web 27 November 2015.

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## **(2) Complication**

Interpreting Romans 10:13 in such a manner deemphasizes the commitment required to receive salvation through God's plan:

### **Matthew 7:21–27 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

<sup>24</sup> "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

### **Luke 6:46–49 (ESV)**

<sup>46</sup> "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? <sup>47</sup> Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: <sup>48</sup> he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. <sup>49</sup> But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."

### **2012 – Southern Baptist Convention Debate (from Christianity Today)**

The resolution was originally [presented](#) by Eric Hankins, pastor of First Baptist Church in Oxford, Mississippi, though the version approved by the committee omitted language designed to refute the denomination's increasingly Calvinist membership. (An effort to put much of the language back in was defeated in a floor vote, as was an effort to remove references to the phrase "Sinner's Prayer.")

Indeed, Hankins says his resolution was sparked by a talk from one of the SBC's Calvinist stars, David Platt. Speaking at the Verge church leaders' conference March 1, the pastor of the Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Alabama, said the emphasis on the Sinner's Prayer is unbiblical and damning.

"I'm convinced that many people in our churches are simply missing the life of Christ, and a lot of it has to do with what we've sold them as the gospel, i.e. pray this prayer, accept Jesus into your heart, invite Christ into your life," Platt [said](#). "Should it not

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concern us that there is no such superstitious prayer in the New Testament? Should it not concern us that the Bible never uses the phrase, 'accept Jesus into your heart' or 'invite Christ into your life'? It's not the gospel we see being preached, it's modern evangelism built on sinking sand. And it runs the risk of disillusioning millions of souls."<sup>4</sup>

### **(3) Context**

We can divide the book of Romans into 3 logical sections:

1. **Principles** of the Gospel (Chapters 1 to 8)
2. **Problem** of the Gospel (Chapters 9 to 11)
3. **Practice** of the Gospel (Chapters 12 to 16)

*The middle section deals with the **Problem** of the Jew's rejection of the plan of God. This is a problem for the Gentiles who might question how God's "chosen people" could reject Him, and whether or not this is indicative of God not keeping his promises.*

Paul was not trying to provide every detail of God's plan of salvation, because he had already done that in chapters 1-8. His emphasis here is that:

- **(1-4)** The Jews did not understand the nature of God's plan of righteousness based on Faith.
- **(5-8)** The Christ has already come down to this earth, died, rose from the grave, and ascended into heaven. We don't need to look for him elsewhere. Salvation through him is available now.
- **(9-13)** God's plan of righteousness is available for **everyone** who confesses in, believes in, calls on God. These phrases were intended to summarize putting faith in God *instead* of ourselves, **NOT** define every detail of what is required to receive salvation.
- **(14-18)** In order to make salvation available to **everyone**, the gospel had to be preached to **everyone** (Even the Gentiles)
- **(19-21)** The Jews should not have been surprised that the gospel went to the Gentiles, because it had been prophesied in OT Scripture.

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<sup>4</sup> Olsen, David. "Southern Baptists Debate the Sinner's Prayer." *Christianity Today*. 20 June 2012. Web 27 November 2015.

## (4) Content

### Romans 10:13 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

### Joel 2:32 (ESV)

<sup>32</sup> And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

### Acts 2:21 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

### *What does it mean to call on the name of the Lord?*

- Asking God to do something for us that we can’t do for ourselves
- Putting faith in God instead of in ourselves

### Critical Questions in the conversion of Saul:

#### Acts 9:1–19 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. <sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” <sup>5</sup> And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” <sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of

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Israel. <sup>16</sup> For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” <sup>17</sup> So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup> and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.

**Acts 22:1-16 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>“Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.”

<sup>2</sup>And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:

<sup>3</sup>“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. <sup>4</sup>I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, <sup>5</sup>as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

<sup>6</sup>“As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. <sup>7</sup>And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ <sup>8</sup>And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ <sup>9</sup>Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. <sup>10</sup>And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ <sup>11</sup>And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

<sup>12</sup>“And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, <sup>13</sup>came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. <sup>14</sup>And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; <sup>15</sup>for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup>And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

***How many days did Saul wait after he lost his sight?***

***Acts 9:8–9 (ESV)***

<sup>8</sup> *Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> And **for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.***

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***Did he pray during those three days? (v. 9:11)***

Acts 9:11 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, **for behold, he is praying,**

***Did he believe in Jesus? (v. 9:5)***

Acts 9:5 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> And he said, “**Who are you, Lord?**” And he said, “**I am Jesus,** whom you are persecuting...”

***When were his sins washed away? (vv. 9:18; 22:16)***

Acts 9:18 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;

Acts 22:16 (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> And now why do you wait? **Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.**’

**Faith Comes From Hearing**

**Isaiah 52:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

**Isaiah 53:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

**John 12:38 (ESV)**

<sup>38</sup> so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

**James 1:19–21 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup> Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.



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**Psalm 19:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun,

**Romans 6:15–19 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>18</sup> and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

**Did Israel Not Understand**

**Deuteronomy 32:21 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> They have made me jealous with what is no god; they have provoked me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are no people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

**Isaiah 65:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, “Here am I, here am I,” to a nation that was not called by my name.