

## May Jesus Christ be Praised - Part 1

THE PROFESSION OF PRAISE    Romans 10:1-10

### STIMULATE

\*\* With each passing week, month and year of our life, it is fair to ask, "What impact is the Word of God having on my everyday lifestyle?". Over the past month we were privileged to learn about "**The Grace of Godliness**" and that series has prompted my heart to wonder what should be our prolonged response to all that we have gained by God's grace?

The answer came from a hymn that has been part of our Sunday worship. "May Jesus Christ Be Praised", written in the 1800's, is the inspiration behind our next series where we are going to learn how to praise our Lord. Rather than merely joining a club, if we develop a pattern of Biblical praise, it will continually change our life!

### MOTIVATE

\*\* As some of you may recall, Paul's epistle to the believers in Rome, stands for all time as the best explanation of the gospel in Scripture. In chapters 10, 11 and the opening to chapter 12, Paul is going to give us five elements of praise that are to be lavished upon our Lord Jesus Christ. Each week we will study one of those elements of praise. The five part series breaks down as follows:

*THE PROFESSION OF PRAISE* - Romans 10:1-10

*THE PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE* - Romans 10:11-21

*THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAISE* - Romans 11:1-24

*THE PROMISE OF PRAISE* - Romans 11:25-36

*THE PRACTICE OF PRAISE* - Romans 12:1-2

\*\* When a sinner comes to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, what will he profess to those around him?

For the answer please turn in your Bibles to Romans 10:1-10 as we study together and learn about "The Profession of Praise".

Read passage (V. 1-5) (V. 6-10)

Opening Prayer

### *The Profession of Praise*

### INVESTIGATE

A brief outline of this wonderful epistle, up to this point where we are beginning today, would be as follows:

Chapters 1 & 2 - The sin of man.

Chapters 3 & 4 - The method of salvation

Chapter 5 - The security of believers

Chapter 6 - The holiness of believers

Chapter 7 - The liberty of believers

Chapter 8 - The Holy Spirit's confirmation

Chapter 9 - Israel's unbelief as a nation

**V. 1** \*\* Now here in chapter ten, verse 1, who is Paul praying for and for what is he praying?

Paul offers a "prayer to God" for Israel that they may gain "salvation" through faith in Jesus Christ.  
cf. Chapter 9, verses 30-33.

\*\* What does Paul add that lets us know how passionately he is involved in prayer for the salvation of Israel?

"..my heart's desire.." This was not just a passing whim with Paul. All see Romans 9:1-5.  
How passionately do you pray for the salvation of those around you who do not know Christ?

**V. 2** \*\* To what is Paul willing to testify?

That Israel has a zeal for God! Paul uses [zealos] from the root word [zeo], which meant to boil or be hot, the word has been translated fury, jealousy and zeal.

\*\* How did Paul know that about Israel?

He is an Israelite and his zeal made him want to kill Christians! cf. Philippians 3:5-6

\*\* Well, since they were so excited about God, what was their problem?

Their enthusiasm was "not in accordance with knowledge". They are not unlike the weak, sinful women of 2Timothy 3:6-7 who are "always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth". cf. 1Timothy 2:3-4 and 2Timothy 2:24-25

**V. 3** \*\* What were the two areas in which Israel was lacking knowledge?

1) They did not know "about God's righteousness". God wants men to know Him!  
cf. Jeremiah 9:23-24, Isaiah 55:8-9

2) They thought they could "establish their own". That is impossible!  
cf. Galatians 2:15-16.

\*\* What error came about because of this double lack of knowledge?

"...they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God..."

\*\* What does that mean?

Remember, "**The Gift of Grace**" from three weeks ago, which was the imputed, perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ given to us in exchange for our sin, all by faith. Israel was not willing to be submissive to God's righteousness offered in the death of the Messiah, but instead thought that they could make it on their own.

**V. 4** \*\* Why should they have believed in the Messiah?

Because He is "the end (or goal) of the law for righteousness..." It was all accomplished in Him!

**V. 5** \*\* What insight or warning had Moses given to Israel regarding those who would establish their own righteousness?

If you are going to try to make it on your own, you better not make even one error!  
cf. Leviticus 18:5, Deuteronomy 27:26 and Galatians 3:10.

## V. 6-8

\*\* The righteousness which is based on faith speaks directly to the errors of self-righteous works. What is the first error?

(V.6) Thinking you must ascend into heaven to bring down God's Messiah, this is to deny the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ!

\*\* What is the second error?

(V.7) Thinking you must descend into the depths of the earth to raise Him up from the dead, this is to deny His resurrection.

\*\* Works-righteousness will always deny the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus Christ by saying you must travel long and hard to find the path of salvation, but what does faith say?

(V.8) "The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"! It was the very gospel that Paul had been preaching to Israel, they had heard it and suppressed it! cf. Romans 1:18-20

\*\* As Paul reminds them in these three verses of the faith that he has been preaching to them, why do you suppose he used this somewhat unusual line of reasoning?

Because they were very familiar with its meaning and he was drawing a parallel between the law of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

All see - Deuteronomy 30:11-14, The commandments of God were "not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach" and neither is the gospel.

**V. 9** \*\* When someone is born again and comes to the knowledge of the truth, by the grace of God, what two things will make up their "**Profession of Praise**" to those around them?

1) They will "confess with [their] mouth Jesus as Lord". [kurios] (lord or master) signifies sovereign power and authority. The believer's praise of Jesus Christ is first noted in the Lordship of Jesus over that person's life. Jesus is referred to as Savior just twice in the book of Acts, while He is referred to as Lord ninety-two times. In all of the New Testament you will find Jesus called Lord some 700 times, while being referred to as Savior only thirteen times!

2) They will "believe in [their] heart that God raised Him from the dead". In so doing the believer identifies himself with the One who purchased our redemption on the cross and rose to share His eternal life with those for whom He is both Lord and Savior.

\*\* Here in verse nine, did you notice the sequence of these two events in the life of one who is saved?

First they confess with their mouth, then they believe in their heart.

\*\* How is that possible?

Paul is drawing from his example in Deuteronomy 30:14 and following the parallelism of that text.

**V.10** \*\* Why does verse 10 begin with the word "for"?

Paul is about to explain further the process of salvation. Here in verse 10 Paul gives the chronological order of redemption.

\*\* What happens first at the moment of salvation?

"...with the heart man believes (the gospel)..."

\*\* What does that accomplish?

We receive the imputed righteousness of Christ!

\*\* What always follows in the life of someone who's heart has believed the gospel, causing them to be born again?

The person's mouth will confess Jesus as Lord!  
cf. Luke 6:45 with James 2:19-20 (Useless faith!)

\*\* Again, what does that accomplish?

Salvation! God's deliverance from the sin that had separated us from His holy presence.

\*\* Are these two separate steps that man must do in order to save himself from the death sentence of sin?

Absolutely not! They merely serve together to describe the single moment in time when someone is saved by coming to a knowledge of the truth and placing their faith in Jesus Christ, which has been granted to them by God's grace. cf. Ephesians 2:8-10

## **EXTRICATE**

\*\* What was wrong with Israel's zeal for God?

(V.2) It was "not in accordance" with a knowledge of the truth but merely their own legalism!

\*\* What was Israel's error, which caused them to miss the salvation which God had offered them through the Messiah?

(V.3) "...they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God" by accepting Christ's death on their behalf.

\*\* How close in proximity is the truth of the gospel to mankind? Do we have to travel to heaven or into the depths of the sea to find it and understand it?

No, it "is near you, in your mouth and in your heart". Men are without excuse when they try to bury their heads in indifference towards a loving God who would desire for them to hear the truth.

## **DELINEATE**

\*\* What two things make up our "**Profession of Praise**" to Jesus Christ which we can share with those around us?

1) That we believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead (which is the gospel).

2) That we confess with our mouth Jesus as Lord (which is our response to the gospel truth).

### **EVALUATE**

\*\* We began this series with the plea "MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED". Are you professing your praise of Jesus Christ to your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers as the Lord provides the opportunity?

### **ACTIVATE**

\*\* This series is going to be challenging you over the next month to live your life to the praise of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Will you begin today by committing to the Lord your willingness to openly profess your praise for Him to others as He brings them across your path?

Closing prayer