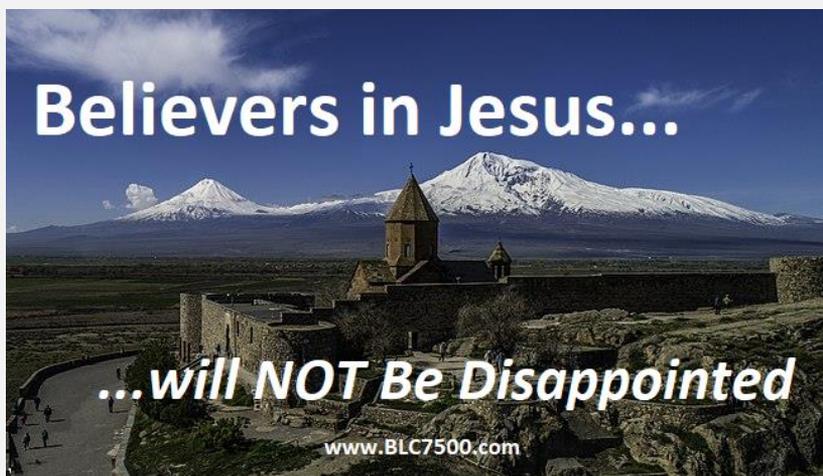


Second Sunday in Lent – 2022
Saturday, 3/5 at 4:00 & Sunday, 3/6 at 9:00



Text: Romans 10:8b-13 NAS 1995

Lenten Wednesdays: Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ:

Let's think BIG: A company called *Space Perspective* is offering a six-hour flight into space; flights are currently sold out through 2024, *but you can buy your seat now*



for 2025 for \$125,000. Since a short time in space costs that much, *some people may assume that knowing Jesus and being saved is difficult or expensive, but that is not true.*

First, *being saved by keeping God's law IS impossible.* Second, *being saved by faith IS NOT that difficult; for example, there is no need to ascend into heaven to bring Christ down, nor to descend into hell to bring Christ up from the dead (Rom. 10:6-7).* Now, in our sermon text, we see *the ease of being saved.*

1. **Salvation Is So Close:** ⁸ **“The word [of the gospel, the good news of Jesus and His finished work] is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” -- that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,**
 - a. Paul was writing to the Christians in Rome:
 - i. Paul ▶believed in Jesus and ▶preached Jesus to others!
 - ii. Paul wanted the Roman believers to be aware that ▶*the belief in their hearts* and ▶*the confession on their lips* was pointing to the reality of their salvation!
 - b. Awareness of the good news within us: **“Christ and His full salvation is always present with us, ▶in the Gospel message, which is proclaimed, ▶in the Scriptures, which are read, ▶in the texts from the Bible, which are memorized. And nothing more is needed than ☞faith in this Word, ☞assent [agreement] to its content, and ☞confidence in its promises” (Kretzmann).**
2. **Believing and Confessing:** ⁹ **that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved;** ¹⁰ **for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.**
 - a. Twice: Attend here at Bethlehem every week; be faithful in gathering to receive God’s gifts. What did I just do? I repeated the same thing twice – *because it is important!* That is what Paul did in **verses 9-10** to emphasize the fact that

‣BELIEVING and ‣CONFESSING **will both be present** *in the lives of those who are saved!*

b. Inside outside: Inside – *in the heart* – is where we have our God-given trust in Jesus. Then – *for all who are in possession of that precious gift* – it shows on the outside in words and deeds.

i. True: “...faith and confession cannot be separated: faith must find its expression in the confession of the mouth.... Paul is speaking of a true and living faith, not of a hypocritical... substitute” (Kretzmann). Think about the gunman at an Oregon college in 2015: “[He started] asking people one by one what their religion was.... ‘Are you a Christian?’ [For those who said, “Yes” and stood up, he said:] ‘Good, because you’re a Christian, you are going to see God in just about one second.’



And then he shot and killed them...”¹

ii. False: Jesus called out Pharisees who had a *disconnect* between their hearts and their words: ^{NIV} **Matthew 15:8** “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” (Also, Lk. 6:46; 1 John 1:6.)

¹ <https://nypost.com/2015/10/01/oregon-gunman-singled-out-christians-during-rampage/>

iii. The Word – Deed connection: Jesus said:
^{NAS} **Matthew 7:21** “Not everyone who **says** to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who **does** the will of My Father who is in heaven.” The will of Father is for everyone to *believe in Jesus!*

3. **Happiness**:¹¹ **For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed** [*embarrassed, put to shame*].” // Investing – **don’t** put all your eggs in one basket! Believing – **do** put all your eggs in the **JESUS BASKET** and you be **SO HAPPY** forever and ever!
4. **The Same**:¹² **For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; ¹³ for “Whoever will call upon the name of the LORD will be saved.”** // Regarding salvation, the Bible puts ALL PEOPLE into two categories: Jew and Greek. ➔**All** are sinners; ➔**all** need Jesus; and ➔**all** who call upon Jesus will be saved!

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – EVERYONE needs Jesus!
- **Relevance** – God ➔ shows people their helplessness and ➔ enables them to call upon Jesus as their Savior!
- **Inspiration** – Get **MUCH JOY** by pointing others to Jesus!

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, thank You for saving faith in our hearts; *may our word and deed confessions be obvious to all!*

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