

Saved Big by Faith

ACTS Sunday, April 14, 2024 ▪ JP MacFarlane

Works-based faith always falls short.

Salvation is obtained through believing in Jesus.

The free gift of salvation is available for all who believe.

Romans 10:5-13

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); 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. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹² 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. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (ESV)

Leviticus 18:1-5

¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the LORD your God. ³ You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. ⁴ You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the LORD your God. ⁵ You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: When you think of the Old Testament Law, what words or images come to mind?

Read & Discuss: Leviticus 18:1-5

1. In this passage, what does God call His people to do and why? Twice God reminds His people, "I am the LORD your God" (vv. 2, 4). How is remembering this meant to motivate us to walk in His ways?
2. Regarding keeping God's statutes, verse 5 promises that "if a person does them, he shall live by them." (*This phrase may be clearer in other translations, such as the CSB, which says "a person will live if he does them," or the NLT, which says that the person who obeys God's decrees "will find life through them."*) Though Leviticus 18:5 does not promise *eternal* life to those who obey God's Law, in what ways do we still find "life" through following God's commandments?

Read & Discuss: Romans 10:5-13

3. In verse 5 Paul is referring to Leviticus 18:5. Though the Law has value, it could never save us. When sharing the Gospel with someone, how would you explain why seeking to be obedient to an external Law could never be enough to secure eternal righteousness?
4. Having told his hearers in verses 8 that the Messiah was already "near [them], in [their] mouth and in [their] heart," in verse 9 Paul now explains what it means to embrace this Christ. If we "confess with our mouth that **Jesus is Lord,**" what would you expect to be true of our lives? If we believe in our "heart that God **raised [Jesus] from the dead**" what would you expect to be true of our lives?
5. For Israelites, the world was divided into Jews and Gentiles—between those on the "inside" and those on the "outside" (v. 12). Why might it have been so hard for Jews of that time to overcome this mindset? Do you see any remnants of this idea existing in the Church today? Explain. How does this negatively affect the Church? What helps you to overcome this attitude?
6. Paul says in verse 13 that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Who are some people that you tend to doubt will ever choose to put their faith in Christ and follow Him?

Pray: Spend time praying for the salvation of those people you just mentioned. Pray also for those in the Church who continue to struggle with a works-based righteousness mindset, that they would come to delight in all that comes with resting in the salvation we have through faith in Christ alone.