

## **Righteousness Based on Faith**

Most of us like to earn the things that are given to us. It's sort of the American way, right? We earn a degree. We earn a place on the team. We earn a paycheck. We earn a promotion. Sometimes we can tend to think that it must work this way in the spiritual realm as well. For the Jews of Paul's day, they tended to think about their standing with God in this way and as a result they were seeking to establish a righteousness based on their works (Romans 10:3). But in the passage we are considering today, Paul makes it clear (once again) that righteousness is based on faith.

### **Read Romans 10:5-13**

1. How does this passage connect to what Paul said in 10:4?
2. Verses 6-8 contain a quote from Deuteronomy 30:11-14. Go back and read the Deuteronomy passage. How does Paul take this passage, which was originally about God's commandment to Israel, and apply it to Christ?
3. What was the "word of faith" that Paul was preaching (v. 8)? And how does verse 9 help us understand how that word of faith has come near?
4. How does Paul describe what an expression of saving faith looks like (vv. 9-10)?

5. How would you use this passage to describe what it means to call upon Jesus to someone who knows little about the Bible?

Brian said:

**Obtaining righteousness/salvation requires a response of faith.** Paul says that everyone who calls on that name of the Lord will be saved. But you DO have to call on Jesus to save you. He has done everything necessary to make your salvation possible. He lived a perfect life; by his death and resurrection he made it possible for your sin to be forgiven and for you to be given new life. But to appropriate what Jesus did for you requires that you respond in faith – you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead and you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. Attending church won't give you this. Living a good, moral life won't. Just simply knowing things about the Bible and God and Jesus won't. You have to believe. Obtaining righteousness requires a response of faith.

6. Was there ever a time when you thought you could obtain righteousness/salvation or in some sense some kind of standing with God through your own effort? How did you come to understand that it required a response of faith?
7. In Romans 10:4, Paul said that what Christ did in fulfilling the demands of the law is for “**everyone** who believes.” How do you see Paul emphasizing this truth in verses 11-13?
8. What does it mean that Jesus is “abounding in riches for all who call upon Him” (v. 13)? In what ways have you experienced such riches?