

Intro: I remember a conversation I had with one of my summer jobs in college. I was working as a deck hand on a dredge. All my coworkers knew I was in Bible College training for ministry: Late one night, just me and the mate: Boss: Dennis: You are going to be a preacher right? Yes: Can you explain to me all this God stuff...what does it all mean

Took next few minutes and I laid it all out...explained who Jesus is, what He did...response we make. Got to the end...ask him: Does that make sense? Yes...I think I got it: Pray? No...let me think....

That is exactly what Paul is doing in the passage we are looking at in Romans today: Romans 10:1
“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Paul is writing the church in Rome, and he is explaining to them all the “God stuff” What it means HOW That is what I want to do for you this morning as well: Explain all this “God stuff”

Continue our series on the “Road To Hope” 2 Goals:

- Encourage You: *Never committed life to Jesus Christ, do that today*
- Equip You: *Give you some tools to help you in conversations with people in your life*

1. CHOICE: Being A Follower Of Jesus Is A Choice We Make.

Notice how Paul begins this sentence: IF It is a conditional statement

If you confess...and If you believe...then you will be saved. It is a conditional clause:

The opposite would be true as well. If you DO NOT confess...and If you DO NOT believe, not be saved

Now, it’s time for another Greek grammar lesson, OK? Last week we did prepositions...this week conditional clauses. In English...If is a pretty easy word. If you do this...then you get this...

Greek is very different. Much more complicated than my simple explanation but think this way.

- If: And I know it is the case 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th class conditional statement
- If: And I know it is NOT the case
- If: Maybe it is...and Maybe it isn’t: Kind of like what we think in English
- If: And it probably is not the case...

Here you have number 3: If you confess: Maybe you will...And Maybe you Will NOT: YOUR CHOICE

Illus: Think about it this way: When people encountered Jesus, they had to make a CHOICE

- Rich Young Ruler came to Jesus: *“What must I do to be saved” “Tell me about this God stuff!”*
- Disciples after hard teaching: *“They left...what about you? Where else we going? Only You”*

Appl: Just like Rich young ruler Just like the thief on cross Just like disciples...CHOICE...follow or not

2. CONFESSION: Being A Follower Of Jesus Involves Confession: (Profession) speak

Confession: Lit = *to speak the same thing as another (God); to agree with; to say the same as*

The way in which Paul uses the word in this context really communicates two things:

- Agree with: I am agreeing with what God says about Jesus, what Jesus says about Himself
~God said: Mt 17:5 *“This is my beloved Son...listen to Him “*
~Jesus said: Jn 14:6 *“I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to Father but by me”*
When we confess (Profess) that we believe in Jesus: God’s Son, Only way to the Father” Agreeing
- Announce: We are taking a stand before God and before others
~My Sin: 1Jn 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive...cleanse*
~His Lordship: 1Jn 4:15 *“If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.”*
~Public Stand: Mt 10:32 *“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him...”*

Illus: That is why we baptize the way we baptize! We are doing all of those things!
Remember the questions: Do you believe.... Accepted Him as Lord and Savior
Buried with Him in baptism...risen to walk in newness of life! (Acting out the Gospel!)

Baptism is a Public statement: CONFESSION: My Sin, His Lordship, Before Everyone Acknowledging

3. CONTENT: Being A Follower Of Jesus Has Spiritual Content.

Believe: Lit = *to have faith in; to stand upon something; to place your spiritual well-being somewhere*

Illus: If you sit on chair, you have FAITH that chair will hold you up!

Believing in Jesus means you are standing on Him, what He did on cross for relationship w God
Content that You must believe:

- **Jesus is Lord:** Jesus of Nazareth: The one that walked this world 3 years Died on Cross Rose to Life: That Jesus: He is Lord:
Lit = *He is the one who has the RIGHT, because He is God, to rule my life*
- **Raised From Dead:** Stand upon the fact that when Jesus died...Just for unjust...bring us to God
The resurrection: Not a myth; not a fairytale; Not conspiracy; Swoon, wake
That he was DEAD: And BURIED: God RAISED Him from Dead
Sign of His approval of the price that was paid for our sin

Illus: Best and Earliest explanation of what we have to believe, spiritual content

Best: Because it summarizes essential CONTENT

Earliest: Because it is one of the very first written down: 20 yrs (Memorized)

1 Corinthians 15:1-7

4. CONSEQUENCES: Being A Follower Of Jesus (Or Not) Has Consequences.

Rick Amato says it this way: God gives us the ability to make choices in our life. Follow Him/Accept Him But He reserves to Himself the CONSEQUENCES of those choices.

We choose our direction...He chooses the consequences

- **IF we choose to know Him, accept Him, confess our need for Him and our trust in Him...Saved**
- **IF we choose to reject Him, walk away from Him, live our life with no regard for Him...lost**

Mr 16:16 *Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.*

Now, Mark isn't saying baptism is NECESSARY for salvation...to know God be with Him eternity

But what he IS saying is that REAL belief is not just in the head, but also in the heart, and works it's way out into everyday life! He is saying that real belief is more than just, "I agree intellectually" But it lives!

Your Life Evidences the reality of your faith

James 2:14ff *"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."* NOT REAL FAITH

Illus: Best illustration of REAL Faith: Tightrope walker: Push wheelbarrow: Who believes?

**CONCL: Do YOU have that kind of faith today? Where you would stake your LIFE on trust in Jesus
Do you want to get in the wheelbarrow?**

Two Goals

- **Encourage You:** *Never committed life to Jesus Christ, do that today*
- **Equip You:** *Give you some tools to help you in conversations with people in your life*

I'm going to pray...if you are ready to get in the wheelbarrow...trust your life to Him...pray with me

Who do you need to pray for, share with, reach out to, tell about God's love?

Prayer of Salvation

Father I know I am a sinner. Please forgive me for my sins.

I believe that your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ died to pay the price for my sins.

I trust Him now as my personal Savior and Lord.

I ask Him to come into my life and commit to follow Him all the days of my life as He gives me strength.

Thank you for hearing my prayer...and answering it.

Amen