

SERMON

Justification: Trusted to Bring the Word of Salvation to the World

GOOD Morning OIC,

JUSTIFICATION is the declaration by God that we are no longer guilty but we are made righteous on the basis of Jesus' death on The Cross to buy OUR eternal forgiveness. OUR JUSTIFICATION is according to God's Plan: Before Time Began - In Time - After Time is No More, as revealed in the Bible. Last month, I attempted to bring out how the Bible tells us we can be confident that before time began, we Christians are "The Chosen." Today, I will attempt to bring out the meaning in Romans Chapter 10 about God the Sovereign King of the Universe, and how He has placed salvation of all men in the Word and in also in OUR hands, His Chosen, the Church.

As usual, I will cross reference verses in Romans Chapter 10 with other verses in the Bible to illustrate many of Paul's statements. The greatest heresies in the Church have been theologies or doctrines that never proved the Bible with the Bible. So please bear with me to make connections to assure God's Truth. If it seems I am wandering from one part of the Bible to another; please wander with me. Please think through the connections between one Scripture to another with me. Please try to look at my Message as a *Great Adventure with God's Word*.

On March 17th we saw in the Apostle Paul's statement in **(Romans 9.31-32)**
31 however, Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though they could by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. Next, he addresses the Christians in the Roman churches connecting the failure of the Jews with their missing the WORD of God for all men. In **(Romans 10.1-4)** it says
Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. 2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. 3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Notice how this, even in 55AD, famous and recognized Apostle of Jesus, anointed with great power in the Holy Spirit, makes it clear in **(Romans 10.1)** that Christians are all *brothers and sisters*.

Again, Paul shows his heart for the Jews, his people by birth. His knowledge of their stubborn rejection of their Messiah, Jesus, did not prevent his *prayer to God for their salvation*. Then in **(Romans 10.2)** it says *they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge*. Thus, he differentiates between religious zeal for God and knowledge of God. Religious zeal may be a person's working up emotions about what he *thinks is God*. True knowledge of God **always includes a personal relationship with Him**. As we learned last week with Moses in **(Exodus 33.17)** *The Lord said to Moses, "I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight and I have known you by name."* **NOTE: For God to know us by name, we must know His Name!** As we read on, we will see that Paul makes that clear as he declares this in **(Romans 10.14)** (below).

(Romans 10.3) says *For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God*. As I preached last week in the message *The God Who Chooses*, "the Jews prided themselves that they would *run to the Law, not the Messiah*. The Jews kept running to the LAW, especially that of Moses, that is, the Ten Commandments and not to the Lord Himself. When 700 years after Isaiah's prophecy Jesus appeared, they ran away from Him too, their Messiah. As the Apostle John wrote in **(John 1.11)** *He came to His own, and His own people did not accept Him.*" In Paul's Letter in **(Romans 10.4)** he said, *For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes*. As Paul has eloquently put together this Letter to the Romans he shows how God's righteousness must be imputed, given to an undeserving sinner by believing in Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. This JUSTIFICATION ends the keeping of the Law for righteousness. Anyone, Jew or Gentile, who works at *seeking to establish their own* righteousness, as in **(Romans 10.3)**, is running against God, away from the Christ, the Messiah. As **(Romans 10.4)** makes clear *4 For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes*. Thus, the Jews, were seeking something that, in regard to gaining a righteous standing with God, **is no more!** **Finding Christ is finding the gift of righteousness to everyone who believes.**

(Romans 10.5-6) *5 For Moses writes of the righteousness that is based on the Law, that the person who performs them will live by them*. No Jew ever lived in perfect obedience to the Law other than the sinless Messiah, Jesus. As Paul opened in **(Romans 1.17)** with the words of the prophet Habakkuk, **(Habakkuk 2.4)** *the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."*

Now the Apostle takes the Older Testament Scriptures and redefines their meaning to give glory to Christ. He was empowered and set free by Holy Spirit, who was writing this part of the Newer Testament through him. This is a physical or concrete fulfillment of that writing which the

newly resurrected Jesus said to two of His disciples on the road to Emmaus in **(Luke 24.26-27) 6** *Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?*” **27** *Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.*

So, in accordance with Jesus' explaining Himself in the Older Testament, Paul chooses the book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 30 to bring out the contrast of the Law, as **(Romans 10.5)** and the Word of Faith **(Romans 10.8)**. Moses in **(Deuteronomy 30.10-12)** said

10 *if you obey the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and soul. 11 “For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach. 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us to get it {His commandments and His statutes} for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?’*

Now we will see in the next few verses the ingenuity and genius of Holy Spirit and Paul's knowledge of the Old Testament Bible verses that called for obeying the Law, for , an opposite application, to proclaim the Word of Faith {in Christ}. **(Romans 10.4)** *For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.* And Paul writes in **(Romans 10.6)** *“DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, ‘WHO WILL GO UP INTO HEAVEN?’ (that is, to bring Christ down).*

Paul could almost have been using a computer with Microsoft Word processing and selecting “SEARCH” and “REPLACE”.... “{His commandments and His statutes}” given by Moses on earth, REPLACED with “ *(that is, to bring Christ down).*” Why? Christ already came down from Heaven and finished His Mission. As Moses said don't look for the LAW in Heaven, now, don't look for Christ in Heaven for He already came down and died for our sins.

Now Paul puts a different “spin on,” or meaning replacing, Moses’s next statement about the LAW in : **(Deuteronomy 30.13)** *‘Who will cross the sea for us and get it for us and proclaim it to us, so that we may follow it?’* REPLACED by **(Romans 10.7) 7** *or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).”*

THE ABYSS is a spiritual prison where God sends demons and finally Satan himself. God then releases them to do havoc and destruction on Earth for His purposes. As shown in **(Revelation 20.1-3)** *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he took hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he threw him into the abyss and*

shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

Paul is setting the place of “*the dead*” as the abyss. Christ was dead and then risen thus men need not either look across some sea, as Moses spoke about the Law, or even into the *abyss*, for what they need for righteousness. For we don't have to (*that is, to bring Christ up from the dead*). He is RISEN!

(Romans 10.8) **8** *But what does it {the righteousness based on faith} say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching. As Moses told the Israelites in (Deuteronomy 30.14) 14 On the contrary, the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may follow it {the LAW spoken by God through Moses}.*

Now Paul finishes the parallelism of the Law and Jesus, with: *Christ is the end of the Law.* Moses had established that, the power with God with the Jewish Nation was in their obedience to **believe and speak** the Law in the Older Testament. Paul similarly writes, since Christ came to Earth, it is **still in what men believe and speak**: “*THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART*”—*that is, the word of faith which we are preaching...*

But, to be saved, men must NOW believe and speak the WORD OF FAITH!

(Romans 10.9) *that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;* The Law required believing in the fact that God gave and commanded the people to obey it, and not only speaking it. God demanded that they make a *Life or Death effort* to live by it, for a right standing with God. NOW, a right standing with God, which is salvation, requires confessing JESUS IS LORD, believing GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD.... **JUSTIFICATION.**

Dear Christian audiences, here at OIC and on YouTube, the intricate connecting of this parallel that Paul described between the OT Law-Moses-Jewish Nation and Paul's Preaching: the WORD OF FAITH (Jesus' Gospel) -Christ Jesus- All Mankind; is difficult for anyone new to the Bible. Please, bear with me as I will try to imagine an analogy or metaphor. Please pardon me YouTube audience and out of town visitors here today; but this most difficult passage is integral and vital to “try to get your head around.” The Spirit of Jesus wants to work more of Jesus into your heart through your head. God is the One Who put this in His Bible.

OSAKA TRAIN METAPHOR - ANALOGY

Imagine that the message in **(Deuteronomy 30)** from Moses to the Jewish Nation to obey the LAW is like the Hanshin Namba Train line here in Osaka. From Apostle Paul's epistle to the Romans to

believe the WORD OF FAITH is like is like the JR Yumesaki Train Line. These lines are almost parallel, I know you can sometimes see the Hanshin trains from the JR trains.

Moses gave this call to obey the Law about 1446BC. Paul gave this call to believe the WORD OF FAITH about 55AD. Since God is above time, He of course knows the end from the beginning. The Heroes of the Faith, starting with Abraham, accepted “salvation by FAITH.” King David respected the Law and wrote Psalms for all to obey. But David knew that his safety was in his relationship, not his perfect obedience. God intended the Law to carry the Jewish nation forward, like on the Hanshin Line, until it crossed the WORD OF FAITH train, like the JR, the Appearance of Messiah Jesus. Paul's statement *that Christ is the End of the Law* would be like the Hanshin Line ending as the JR and Hanshin lines crossed at Nishikujo Station... like Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection.

Moses said: don't seek the LAW up in Heaven (**Deuteronomy 30.12**); nor across the Sea (**Deuteronomy 30.13**) but it is not too difficult to find (**30.11**). On the contrary, the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may follow it (**30.14**).

Paul's point in (**Romans 10.6**) : don't seek the WORD OF FAITH in Heaven (**Christ already came down**); (**10.7**) nor in the *Place of the Dead* (**Christ is risen from the Dead**); (**10.8**) the WORD OF FAITH is near you, **in your mouth and in your heart-**

MOSES: OBEY THE LAW PAUL: BELIEVE AND CONFESS.

Moses's ministry was to encourage and lead the people to obey the LAW. According to Paul, what are we instructed to confess? (**Romans 10.9**) tells us: *that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved*; then Paul clarifies this with (**Romans 10.10**) *for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*

Dear Saints: I know of many truly Born-Again Christians who the Devil convinced they were not truly Christians. They kept seeing the evil in their own heart and lost that *Blessed Assurance* that the Holy Spirit gives to those who believe. God gave us this clear opportunity to quiet our *fickle feeling hearts and the Devil*. If you recall a point in your life when you had trusted Jesus' Sacrifice to save you from God's judgment, then just say these verses in prayer to God and forget your feelings. Assurance will not return if we look at ourselves at all, especially our feelings. Pray to Jesus in Heaven confessing Him as Lord, and **deciding** to Believe.

I love the place in the Newer Testament where a man's unbelief was exposed by Jesus. A demon possessed boy was brought to Jesus by his father. We read in (Mark 9.21-25) *And He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. 22 It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to kill him. **But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!**" 23 But Jesus said to him, "**If You can?**" All things are possible for the one who believes." 24 Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "**I do believe; help my unbelief!**" 25 When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again!"* The boy's father put the "if" in the wrong place. He should have said: "**You can do anything, if you pity us, help us!**"

There are many times in a Christian's life where they should pray that "**I do believe; help my unbelief!**" Don't be afraid to ask Jesus to help your unbelief. Especially if you have lost that *Blessed Assurance of your salvation*. Jesus did show pity and cast the demon out. He will heal your heart to once again have *blessed assurance*.

(Romans 10.10b) {NOTE: b denotes the second part of a Bible verse as in a, b} *and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.* Now we have the human side of **salvation**.

Christians, Holy Spirit gave us all the gift of saving faith. The Bible tells us clearly in (Ephesians 2.8) *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;* Yet, we see in (Romans 10.9) *if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord,* and (Romans 10.10b) *with the mouth he confesses* as **conditions of salvation for a sinner to be saved**. Until a sinner receives the gift of faith, he has NO WILL. He is blinded by Satan, a slave to demonic forces outside and his anti-Christ heart inside. **Satan deceives him to think he has a will, but the strings of his heart are played by an evil musician, Satan. Only after and during those moments of receiving forgiveness by faith (Ephesians 2.8) does a sinner really have a will to choose.** Confessing Jesus is Lord may not come out of his mouth in that moment, but it must soon. I wonder how many sinners stay on the path to Hell out of shyness to confess Jesus? You don't have to be a vociferous and bold preacher, but in your own personal way, confess Jesus is Lord with your mouth. This is not a strange teaching in the book of Romans. This is all about your new relationship with your Creator, your New Husband, Jesus. For Jesus said in (Mark 8.38) *For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.* **YES, there are conditions in God's unconditional love.** It is as a bride at the altar refusing to say YES to "Do you take this man to be your Husband." This Man is JESUS.

TAKEAWAY #1

Experiencing spiritual rebirth is receiving the Gift of Salvation, Jesus' sacrifice for our sins; but also, acknowledging with our mouth after we received the gift: JESUS IS LORD.

I chose the Osaka train lines which crisscross and sometimes parallel to each other to explain the intricate explanation by Paul in comparison to Moses about 1,500 years apart. The trains are traveling 1500 years apart but they intersect at the Cross of Jesus Christ. Paul's survey of the History of the Jewish Nation and the Newly Created Church ends with a simple **believe in your heart and confess**. That part is something even a child can understand. But Paul encourages us further in

(Romans 10.11) *“For the Scripture says, “WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.”* Please remember, people, that shame in front of people is nothing in comparison to shame before the Holy God as Jesus warned in **(Mark 8.38)**.

(Romans 10.12) *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 on Him; 13 for “EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.”* The first time people realized their desperate need for God is told to us in **(Genesis 4.25)** *25 Adam had relations with his wife again; and she gave birth to a son, and named him Seth, for, she said, “God has appointed me another child in place of Abel, because Cain killed him.” 26 To Seth also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then people began to call upon the name of the LORD. Adam and Eve's Family now knew by experience that the wages of sin is Death. As in (Romans 6.23) For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Desperation has only one cure, calling on the name of the Lord ... and His name is Jesus, His name is Lord. As declared in the Holy Bible in (Acts 2.36) Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”*

Now Paul lets all Christians know that we all, not just Paul, have become debtors to the sinners around us, and we have a duty to those who have not heard Jesus' Gospel. In **(Romans 10.14)** *How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher?*

TAKEAWAY # 2

“For God to know us by name, we must know His Name!” A few years ago, I did a projected calculation of percentage of Christians in Japan and the population, the response rate at Altar Calls and other outreach evangelism. My rough numbers showed that about ½ the

population here might die without ever hearing the Name of Jesus, IESU KIRISUTO! That would be about 61 MILLION PEOPLE in 2024. This huge country actually runs in many tight and small circles of relationships. Privacy is a higher priority in Japan than in many other nations. Just being willing to share His name with people can make a difference, dear OIC brother and sisters.

God has used these verses in the Book of Romans to send many Christians to the mission field since Paul penned these three phrases in (**Romans 10.14**): *call on Him, believe on Him, hear without a preacher.* But the love arrow from Heaven to the heart, the debt we owe to these lost and ignorant souls, is in (**Romans 10.15**) *But how are they to preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written: "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"*

This verse is from (**Isaiah 52.7**) in poetic form:

*How delightful on the mountains
Are the feet of one who brings good news,
Who announces peace
And brings good news of happiness,
Who announces salvation,
And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*

Isaiah's inspirational words from the Holy Spirit are surely fitting for poetry. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is Good News that brings peace to troubled sinners. The Bible declares that THE LORD IS PEACE! Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: your pastor during seasons of spiritual warfare, as Satan has had me on the ropes of the Boxing Arena, the Spirit of Jesus causes me to keep fighting until this verse fills my heart and soul. THE LORD IS PEACE. But my experimental Christian life should be confirmed before you by the Holy Bible. Such is the mighty act of God through His servant, Gideon. The Lord sent an angel to Gideon, beating wheat in a hidden place to keep it from the invading Midian army. In (**Judges 6.12**) The angel said to a rather timid Gideon: "The LORD is with you, valiant warrior." Gideon took the challenge, believing God's message more than his timid heart. Then in (**Judges 6.24**) *Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and named it The LORD is Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.* 25 Now on the same night the LORD said to him, "Take your father's bull and a second bull seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal which belongs to your father, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it; The message is clear, that until warfare here on Earth ceases against God and His People, "Zion" in (**Isaiah 52.7**) PEACE will always be followed by more warfare. For the ruler of this world was thrown out of Heaven, but roams about inspiring evil in his children, the children of

the Devil. These evil children are tireless in their hindrances against the Church. Gideon chose to obey God and incite anger from those worshiping the false god, BAAL. Gideon was called to the defeat thousands of soldiers for in **(Judges 7.12)** *Now the Midianites, the Amalekites, and all the people of the east were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number, as numerous as the sand on the seashore.* God gave Gideon the victory over the thousands of Midianites and Amalekites, with just 300 trumpets, 300 lanterns, 300 pitchers, and 300 men! I will leave to you your own Bible Study of Gideon's becoming a valiant warrior for the Lord in Judges Chapters 6 & 7. Gideon's Victory began when he believed the Lord over his own timid fears. Then he worshiped the Lord by building an altar to Him. Then the Spirit of God caused him to become a valiant and wise warrior. Knowing that THE LORD IS PEACE helps us wait for Jesus' voice to penetrate the devil's confusing attacks on us. But, we have promises even better than Gideon's, for Jesus, God Himself on Earth, promised in **(Matthew 16.18 AMPC)** *I will build My church, and the gates of Hades (the powers of the infernal region) shall not overpower it [or be strong to its detriment or hold out against it].* Romans Chapter 8 & 9 tells Christians that God didn't give us this confidence that we are Chosen to stand idly by while sinners perish without an opportunity to call on Jesus. We, like the Apostle Paul, have a debt to pay to the sinners who are perishing if they don't hear Jesus' Gospel. We must leave what God has predestined in His hands. We must take action now to reach those *“who are being saved.”*

Romans Chapter 8 means that we have what Jesus promised, **power!** He would overcome the Gates of Hell, all the Fallen Angels, Principalities, Powers, and all Demons as told us in **(Romans 8.38-39)** to *Build His Church.*

Like Gideon, God chooses many timid and the weak Christians to triumph over the strong Devil and his messengers! God caused an obedient and timid Gideon **to become a valiant warrior**, as God's Angel had addressed him in that personal meeting in the wheat cellar.

{{{ WORSHIPING WITH OIC WORSHIP TEAM}}}

We are in a war to bring the *LORD IS PEACE* to those perishing under Satan's control. God has all the power you need for the Victory. Will you ask Him for it? Jesus by His Spirit is here at OIC today. He is walking up and down these aisles examining hearts of saints and sinners. You who are waiting for a sign or miracle...JESUS IS HERE. That is a miracle in a world filled with devils and a society sold out to conceal the truth by outward appearances. Jesus sees into your heart filled with sin and evil. Just *Call on the Name of the Lord Jesus and be saved!*

Chosen Believers in Jesus, are you afraid to tear down the altars of Baal that fill Japan? God asks us to do it with the WORD OF FAITH, not with axes and shovels. Is he calling you to be a *sent*

one? Don't be amazed if He calls you to a land far away that has more Christians than here in your homeland. God has a plan for your life. He knows the statistics, but these numbers don't rule His Choices. He is the God who chooses. He is the God who calls. As Jesus walks among us today, Dear Saint, do you hear His voice of Peace asking you to make war against the Evil One by preaching God's Word? Just make an altar there at your seat as I pray for OIC. Make an altar as the Blood of Jesus is sprinkled upon you because He will give you strength for your calling. Blow the Trumpet for ZION and the Enemies of Christ will flee like locusts and cockroaches for they fear a weak Christian strengthened only by the power of the Spirit of God.

Let Us Pray,

REFERENCES

AMPC – Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

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