

Rich Unto All



*Israel's 60th Anniversary:
Time is Running out for the
Believer to Fulfill the Responsibility
of Reaching the Jews with the Gospel.*

by Tom Cantor

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*(This message delivered at the 2008 annual meeting of
the San Diego Hebrew Mission)*

“May the words of my mouth, and the meditations
of all of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O
LORD, our strength, and our redeemer.”

For the honor of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

(from Psalm 19:14)

Turn with me to Romans 10:1-15.

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God
for Israel is, **that they might be saved**. For I
bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but
not according to knowledge. For they being
ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going
about to establish **their own** righteousness, have
not submitted themselves unto the righteous-
ness of God. For **Christ** is the end of the law for
righteousness to every one that believeth. For Moses
describeth the righteousness which is of the law,
That the man which doeth those things shall **live by**
them. But the righteousness which **is of faith**
speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, **Who**
shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ
down from above:) Or, **Who** shall descend into the

deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, **the word of faith**, which we **preach**; That if **thou** shalt **confess** with thy mouth **the Lord Jesus**, and shalt **believe** in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, **thou** shalt be saved. For **with the heart man** believeth unto righteousness; and **with the mouth** confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, **Whosoever** believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is **no difference between the Jew and the Greek**: for the same Lord over all is **rich unto all that call upon him**. For **whosoever** shall call upon the name of **the Lord** shall be saved. How then shall they call **on him** in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe **in him** of whom they have **not heard?** and how shall they hear without **a preacher?** And how shall they preach, except they be **sent?** as it is written, How **beautiful are the feet** of them that **preach the gospel of peace**, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

Before we get into this passage in Romans 10 – we need a backdrop of what Paul has taught up to this point about Israel. So far, in the Book of Romans, God has revealed that He has sovereignly elected the nation of Israel, and then God further elected a remnant within that elected nation of Israel – so God has **an election within an election**. Romans 9:6 put it like this:

“They are not all Israel, which are of Israel.”

Leading up to our passage in Romans 10, Paul shows why

the Jews were responsible for their own apostasy – it was **they who rejected God and not God** who rejected them. For God only hardens the heart of the man who continues to rebel until the Spirit of God can do nothing more with him. This is a very solemn truth that the Gospel evangelist has to deal with. Every time he opens his mouth to preach the Word of God, he knows that the **very word of life** that he is preaching **to some people** is the **very word of death to another group of people.**

For example, this situation came up to me on a very empty flight that I took from London to Nairobi. As you know, since the 2007 elections, there has been a lot of trouble in Kenya which has kept tourists away. So the particular cabin I occupied contained only me and one other woman sitting across the aisle. I got up and said, “Hello” and “What do you do?” And she said, “Well, I’m an anthropologist.” I said, “That’s interesting. What kind of fossils are you looking for?” She responded, “Well, I’m looking for signs of early man and animals.” I thought to myself, oh. I said, “Well, I love to look at the creation of God and I love to study bones and things like that.” Then, it dawned on me that she was probably trying to support evolution. So I asked her, “Are you trying to support evolution?” She said, “Yes, I am.” “Well,” I said, “have you ever heard of the Creation Museum?” “Oh yes, and I’m horrified by it – horrified.” I said, “Oh, I was there on opening day.” I smiled. She wasn’t very happy. So I got out a little Gospel card on the love of God and said, “You know, I wrote these things down and I’d really like to give them to you. It’s all about the love of God...various verses about how God IS love, and the type of love that He has.” I started to hand it to her she said,

“No! I won’t take it. If I take it, I’ll throw it away.” She said, “I used to believe that, but now I fight against it.” Her words shocked me. I backed away and said, “You fight against God? Do you think you can win?”

Asking if she thought she could win sounds funny, but I was dead serious. Here this woman had told me that she was fighting against God. Then she said to me, “Go give it to someone who will appreciate it.” I felt dejected. So I went back into the galley and started to talk with the flight attendants in the back. I told them I was going to Ethiopia. They asked what for, so I said, “I’m going to Ethiopia to tell the Moslems how to get to heaven through the Lord Jesus Christ.” One of the flight attendants said, “I’m a believer, I’m a believer!” I said, “That’s wonderful. You know, you are just the person I am looking for because the other passenger sitting across from me, just instructed me to go give this card to someone who would appreciate it. Let me go over this with you.” She read it all



Sheila, the believer who received with appreciation the Gospel card that was rejected by the anthropologist.

and said, “Oh, that’s so precious. I’m going to read this—and put it by my bed tonight so that I can read it before I go to sleep.”

The opposite responses from those two persons made me realize that the same word is to some a word of life that they cherish and to others a word of death that they despise. The same word is a “**savor of life unto life to those who are saved and a savor of death unto death to those that perish.**” That is why Proverbs 18:21 says that “the **power of life and death** are in the tongue.” God can never be blamed for what happens to some Jews who chose their own destiny to become vessels of dishonor and wrath. God’s rejection of the rebellious in Israel is nothing more than a reflection of their rejection of God. Today we are going to see how most of the Jews have rejected **God’s Plan of Salvation.**

The Plan of Salvation as Rejected by the Jews

What happened to Israel? Chapter 9 shows a contrast between the Gentiles and the Jews. The Gentiles who, according to Romans 1, **only had the light of conscience**, and the Gentiles **only had the light of Creation**; but with only those two lights of conscience and Creation, we find the Gentiles embracing the message of salvation which is “**righteousness by faith**”.

But, the Jews had all the advantages outlined for us in Romans 9:4-5; just look at the list of their 7-fold privileges:

“Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth **(1) the**

adoption, and (2) the glory, and (3) the covenants, and (4) the giving of the law, and (5) the service of God, and (6) the promises; Whose are (7) the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.”

Just think about that, the adoption...Moses said to the people of Israel, “I’ve got a question for you.” Think about what God did. He surveyed all the people on the earth. He looked over all the nations of the world and He chose one. He chose one to give all this marvelous revelation and to dwell among them. God said, “I choose Israel and I am going to dwell with them.” Then Moses said, “Think about this – who else did God do that for? Who else received all those benefits from God? Do you think He did this because you were mightier? No. Because you were stronger? No. Because you were smarter? No. Because you were more righteous. Certainly not!” As a matter of fact, Moses told them, “...from the day I knew you, you have been rebellious. He did that because He LOVED you.” And that was one of the great privileges and benefits that they had—the ADOPTION.

The Jews had all those 7-fold privileges which constituted **revelation** over and over and over again. Yet, with all that revelation, the Jews refused the righteousness of God and instead decided that they were going to work their own way to Heaven. *Instead of turning by faith to their Messiah and embracing Him as the fulfillment of all those privileges and righteousness, they sought to work out their own righteousness by carnal effort.*

This **did not catch God off guard.** God foresaw this

negative attitude of the Jews and so He inspired Isaiah to anticipate and write about the rejection of the Jews. Paul quotes him in Romans, chapter 9, verse 33:

“Behold, I lay in Sion **a stumblingstone and rock of offence**: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”

A “Rock of Offence” is the word God used. He should have been their Rock of Defense and the Rock of Ages against their enemies. *This verse is so sad, because if only the Jews in Isaiah’s day, or the Jews in Paul’s day, or the Jews in our day understood what Isaiah had said, they would never have turned from the Savior. They would never have turned from the Messiah. They would never have looked upon Him as a stumbling stone. They would have seen Him as the eternal “Rock of Ages.”*

But, they did not even take the time to understand. So **the Jews stumbled at the stone by rejecting** the promise and plan of God’s salvation **in three ways**.

Israel’s 3-fold Rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ

First, Israel stumbled by rejecting the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 2:3)

“When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, **and all Jerusalem with him.**”

When the chief priests and scribes were asked by Herod where their Messiah was to be born – they could and

they did, without hesitation, point to Bethlehem of Judea. Why? Because **they knew** the words of the prophet Micah in Micah 5:2:

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet **out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, **from everlasting.**”**

Through Micah God revealed to Israel that the eternal One Himself would come forth from God to be ruler in Israel. But, did Israel run with joy to Bethlehem to see the birth of their Messiah? No! Are Jews really looking for their Messiah? When someone says that the Jews are still looking for their Messiah – that is true in that they have been and are **ONLY** looking for the Messiah they want and not the One that God sent. They did not want a Messiah from a city like Bethlehem. Bethlehem, “little among the thousands of Judah?” No, not a little city of no renown. “No!” they said, and they stumbled.

Thus it was the foreign Magi who put Israel to shame – who gave their all to come and worship Him and peer down into that manger to **look into the very face of God** clothed with the humanity of a little baby. Then, when Herod realized that the Magi had gone back another way, he immediately slaughtered all the babies from one to two years old in order that Israel’s Messiah would be killed. And Herod was **backed and supported by the religious leaders.**

They stumbled at the stone as they rejected the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Today, the very idea of Christmas –

of Christ the Messiah being born — is still a rock of offence. I remember as a Jew in Los Angeles, how Christmas day was **an awkward day** when we used to either go to the movies or to a Chinese restaurant. Christmas day is still an offense to Jews — still a stumbling stone.

Second, Israel rejected the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Isaiah tells us about that in Isaiah 53:

“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.” (Isaiah 53:3):

The entire **53rd chapter of Isaiah** (as well as Psalm 22) is a detailed and dramatic description of the rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ in terms of His life. John tells us about this rejection in John 1 when he tells us that:

“In the beginning was the Logos, and the Logos was with God, and the Logos was God...All things were made by Him and without Him was not any thing made that was made... **He came unto His own and His own received Him not.**”

(John 1:1,3,11)

So, again they stumbled — not only at the **birth** of the Lord Jesus Christ, **but also at the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

But supremely — **they stumbled supremely at His death.**

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:23:

“But we preach Christ **crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock...**”

The Jews were prepared and **ready to accept** the crystal clear prophecies of the Messiah’s coming in **power and glory**, but they stumbled at the equally clear prophecies about **His meekness, His humiliation and His death**. So the cross for Israel was a rock of offence.

The Greek word used for the word “**offence**” in Romans 9:33 as “rock of offence” is the word “**Scandalon**” – as in a disgrace, a dishonor, a shame, an outrage. Originally, in the Greek, it meant a **trap that was baited**. They saw (and they continue to see) in the Lord Jesus Christ nothing more than a trap that would bring a person to **shame and disgrace**.

I remember one time coming back from Cancun to Los Angeles. There was a group of Israelis on the plane with whom I had already had quite an encounter. They sat down on the plane behind me and didn’t see me. There was one big fellow who was named Adam who had previously informed me that he was “very Jewish,” so I asked him if he had been circumcised twice. But now he was on this plane with me and God was giving me another chance to bring hope to him; since I had Isaiah 53 with me on some laminated pages, I had to give them to him.

It was dark inside the plane and I was fumbling around in my suitcase getting out those Isaiah 53 pages when my glasses fell out. He and I both bent down together to pick up my glasses and we came up together. He said, “Oh, it’s you!” I said, “Yes. Look, I’ve got this for you and I want to give it to you. But first let me read and go over it with you.” We were standing in the aisleway and we read it together and I went over it with him verse by verse. I said, “This is talking about your Messiah—this is about your people and your Messiah. He died for you. He was wounded for your transgressions, He was bruised for your iniquities; all the punishment that you deserve was on Him. He justifies you and opens Heaven for you...(he was intently reading the passage with me) and here, it’s yours.” And he said, “No, I don’t want to take your copy.” I said, “I’ve got more, please take it.” I could see that curiosity had gotten him and he started to take it, but he had a group of about 5 or 6 other Israelis with him. (I’ll never forget this scene and what happened next.) Turning around and seeing them all staring at him, he turned to me and said, “No! No, I can’t! I can’t!” and he pushed the pages back at me. Why did he do that? Because he saw turning towards the Lord Jesus Christ as a scandal. It was a scandal! It was a trap, he felt. He was being baited to go into what he knew would bring him disgrace and shame among his own people. When he saw his friends looking at him he saw a trap and replied, “No, No” and turned away from the only One who could bring him hope of eternal life with God. And that’s what happened.

So, the Jews repudiated the cross. The Jews wanted just the opposite of what God sent them:

They wanted a **militant Messiah** – God sent them a **meek Messiah**.

They wanted a **lion** – God sent them a **lamb**.

They wanted a **throne** – God sent them a **cross**.

*They wanted **Mt. Zion** – God sent them **Mt. Calvary**.*

When the Jews saw a **Messiah impaled on a cross** — **crucified in weakness** (2 Corinthians 13:4) the Jews said **No!** The **tragedy** is that **God finally rejects** those **individuals** who succeed till their dying day to reject His suffering servant, His dying Son, His Messiah of Calvary. The Jews rejected the humiliation of the Messiah. But, it is the humiliation of the Messiah that is the whole sweep of redemption and it is summed up in the words of Philippians 2:6-9. Speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are told that it was Him:

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But **made himself of no reputation**, and **took upon him the form of a servant (or slave)**, and was made in the likeness of men:

And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself**, and **became obedient (submissive obedience)** unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore, God also hath highly exalted Him...”

And Paul says further “Let this mind **be in you** which was also in Christ Jesus” (verse 5). Now that is the backdrop for Romans 10 – Israel’s **3-fold rejection** of the Lord Jesus Christ. They rejected **His Birth, His Life and His Death**.

With all of that in view, we come to Romans chapter 10 which has one of the clearest salvation statements in the entire Bible. As Gospel preachers, this is one of our favorite Gospel passages. Did you ever wonder why such a wonderful salvation verse as Romans 10:9 is in the middle of the chapter that deals with Israel's rejection of God's plan of salvation? There it stands as a salvation lighthouse in the middle of the storm of rejection.

*Romans Ten and Nine
A favorite verse of mine
Confessing Christ as Lord
we are saved by Grace Divine
For there the words of promise
in golden letters shine
Romans Ten and Nine.*

Right in the middle of stating Israel's 3-fold rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ, God planted the Gospel. Why? Because God wanted Israel to be saved and Paul says it so clearly in verse 1:

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”

Paul had already said this in Romans 9 (verse 1). He said, “I’m telling you the truth, my conscience bearing witness in the Holy Ghost.” It’s right there. He’s saying it again, and says that his love and concern for the Jews constitutes in him “a great heaviness and a continual sorrow in his heart.” He said “you can send me to hell, if it will mean that they can be saved.” That’s what he said. He said, “I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brothers, my kinsman, according to the

flesh, who are the Israelites.”

Paul reminds us of that one and only disciple who ever put his head on the chest of the Lord Jesus Christ, John, who, when he did, he heard the heartbeat of God. Paul wasn't there with John, but I like to think that he, in essence, did the same thing. Hearing the heartbeat of God, Paul came out with a heart burden and a continual heaviness for the Jews. Paul was saying, “I can't get them out of my mind, I can't get them out of my heart. It keeps on going on. It's a continual sorrow.” Why did Paul keep saying how burdened and concerned he was for Israel? Because that's God's heart. And so he restates his same burden in Romans 10. If we said to Paul, “What is it, Paul? What is simply your heart's desire?” Paul's reply is simply, “That they might be saved.” “That they might be saved!”

There, we have it - that is our goal also. That is the purpose of our praying, reaching and preaching to the Jews! That is the focus of our prayers for Israel —that they might be saved, that they might be saved, **that they might be saved**. Have they rejected God, the Lord Jesus Christ? Yes! Have they rejected the promise of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ? Yes! Have they rejected the plan of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ? Yes! Do they now reject the preaching of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ? Yes!

What is God's response to all their rejection? Salvation for them **individually today** and **as a nation in the future**. God is saying today that in spite of their 3-fold rejection, “**I want to save them, I want to save them individually, I want to save them now.**” And Paul states God's desire clearly with the words, “That they might be saved.”

God is asking you and me today – will you take this to your heart? Will you brand across your heart the words “that they might be saved” so that every time you pray for Israel (and you may be stumbling all around in your prayers for them) that God will see through all your weakness and see that you are praying simply “that they might be saved.”

Take this to your heart so that every time you speak to a lost Jew (and you may be stumbling about in all your witness to them)— finally that lost Jew may say “Though I don’t understand all that he is saying, there is one message that is coming through loud and clear. He is talking to me so ‘that I might be saved.’”

Three Reasons Why Israel Rejected God’s Plan of Salvation

Now we come to the question: Why did Israel reject God’s plan of salvation? Israel rejected God’s plan of salvation for **3 reasons**:

First - They rejected God’s plan of salvation because of their **rebellious reliance on their own self righteousness**. Look carefully at verses 2 and 3 of Romans 10:

“For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but **not according to knowledge**. For they being **ignorant of God’s righteousness**, and **going** about to establish **their own** righteousness, have **not submitted themselves** unto the righteousness of God.”

Paul knew very well about this “DIY” or “do-it-yourself”

righteousness. When Paul said that Israel went about to establish their own righteousness, Paul's mind was hit with a flood of memories of how he went about to establish his own righteousness. He tells us about his own personal DIY righteousness in Philippians 3:5-6. Paul said,

“I was circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an **Hebrew of the Hebrews**; as touching the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, **blameless.**”

Paul had not just been a Jew – he had been a **super Jew!** And in so being, Paul also had kicked against the stone of stumbling until he saw that that stone was the Rock of Ages. This approach is true of religions today. The DIY or “do it yourself” religion is Satan's chief strategy to keep souls away from the Lord Jesus Christ and headed for hell.

I was on a plane last week with a Jewish man named Ethan. God gave me the privilege of sitting next to him on a 5-hour flight from San Diego to New York. His job was to go into large organizations like NASA and teach the managers about human awareness – i.e. that somehow, if they look into the mess inside themselves, they can find some good. His job entailed saying to the managers, “You just have to search a little better – you are really a fine person. There is some light down there in all that darkness inside of you – just keep looking. There is nothing wrong with you. Just keep on going – don't give up and you will be fine. You're a fine person!”

That's hell's lie. It's hell's lie that keeps people going right

down the middle of the road to perdition without giving any thought that they are the problem, that they are sinners. No man can save himself. To say that man can lift one finger to save himself is to deny the total message of the incarnation, the crucifixion and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Why did God ever send His Son into the world at all if a lost sinner could just save himself?

Second - They rejected God's plan of salvation because of their **rebellion at Law Righteousness**. See Romans 10, verses 3-5:

“For they being **ignorant of God's righteousness**, and going about to establish **their own righteousness**, have **not submitted themselves** unto the righteousness of God. For **Christ** is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall **live by them**.”

The words, “they have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” imply that the Jews refused to subject themselves to the standards and requirements of God's Holy Law. And what does God's Holy Law say? Paul quotes from Leviticus 18:5 which says:

“Ye shall therefore **keep** my statutes, and my judgments: which **if a man do, he shall live...**”

Paul himself never fulfilled the law. He wrote about his encounter with the law in Romans 7:10-11:

“And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For **sin**, taking occasion by the commandment, **deceived me**, and by **it slew me**.”

No Jew ever fulfilled that standard, so they just changed the standard to make their own law by reinterpreting God’s law in a never-ending series of commentaries like the Talmud.

There is only one person in the entire universe who ever kept the law of God in every detail, and that was the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the only reason that God could ever make Him a sacrifice for you and for me. If there had been just one flaw in the Lord Jesus Christ, He could not have been your Savior or mine. He alone kept the law perfectly. But Jew and Gentile alike rebel at that. People say “I am a good person – tell me something that I have done wrong.”

Eileen, for example, was a Jewish woman with terminal cancer whom I sat next to on a flight from Chicago to London. Her daughter was bringing her to Paris. I told her, “You don’t need a trip to Paris. You need a trip to heaven!” She took my testimony booklet and started to read it on the plane. She looked up to me and said, “You really were a sinner – but I was not.”

Not only did the Jews in rebellion rely on Self Righteousness and Law Righteousness, but the **THIRD** reason they rejected God’s plan of salvation was worst of all, because they **resisted Faith Righteousness**. This is the heart of it all. Notice verse 6:

“But the righteousness which is of faith...”
(Romans 10:6)

“Faith righteousness” is a wonderful phrase. What is faith? Here is the way I like to explain to the lost what faith is:

Faith is F-A-I-T-H

F is for Forsaking,

A is for All,

I is for I,

T is for Take, and

H is for Him.

F-A-I-T-H = **F**orsaking **A**ll, **I** Take **H**im!

And I mean forsaking all – **that** is faith. I don’t come into it except on the receiving end.

Three Things about God’s Way of Salvation

First, God’s way of salvation is **Supernaturally Accomplished** – see verses 6 through 8 of Romans 10:

”Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: **that is, the word of faith**, which we preach;”

The mighty act of salvation is supernaturally accomplished. **No man** could ever have brought about the **incarnation** of the Lord Jesus Christ and no man could

ever have brought about the **resurrection** of the Lord Jesus Christ. No man had any power to bring the Lord down from Heaven to be made flesh, and no man had any power to raise the Lord from the dead. Only God could accomplish that. The entire act of salvation was initiated and consummated by God. He is totally responsible for a supernatural salvation. That is what these verses mean. The Lord Jesus Christ **took the initiative** in stepping down to die on a wooden cross for our salvation. He took the initiative in rising from the dead to sit on a heavenly throne for us.

You can take all of man's religions, bind them up in one book, and title that book, "**All of Man's Failing Religious Ways to Seek for God**". But only the precious Bible could be labeled "**God Seeking for Man**". That is the Gospel — that **is** the Gospel! It is God **breaking into time**, God **invading history** — it is God **breaking through our darkness by revelation**. God initiates it, God continues it and God consummates it.

This unique Book tells that as soon as Adam and Eve bowed in rebellion to personified sin in God's Garden, God called out to Adam, "**Where art thou? Where art thou? Where art thou?**" and that voice has **never been silenced and never will be silenced** until the **last responding** man and woman have been gathered in. That is God. Yes, **that** is God. No Jew or Gentile can save himself. If he thinks he can, he is on the skids to hell. Say these words with me out loud: "**Salvation is supernaturally accomplished.**" That's an important part of the way of salvation.

Second, God's way of salvation is **Individually**

Accepted. God does not save en masse. **Receiving salvation** is the responsibility of **the individual**. As an individual you have to use your own mind to understand, your own heart to love God and your own will to choose God in order to receive God’s salvation. It is individually received – even by a husband or by a wife. The husband can be saved and the wife may continue on her way to hell; or the wife can be saved and the husband may continue on his way to hell. **Husband and wife are not saved together.** Each person has to be saved individually. Look carefully at how this is emphasized in verse 9:

“That if **thou** (note that word thou as an emphasis for the individual) shalt **confess** with thy mouth **the Lord** Jesus, and shalt **believe** in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, **thou** shalt be saved (note again that word thou as a repeated emphasis on the individual) shalt be saved.”
(Romans 10:9)

Let this truth burn into your soul – that salvation is individually accepted. Say it with me out loud: **“salvation is individually accepted”**.

What I do to help me keep this truth right up front “on the dashboard of my life” is this: when I encounter a lost Jew, I say to myself – **I am not talking to a Jew. When I am dealing with a lost soul, there is no such thing as a Jew or a male or a female – there is just that individual soul before God.** That soul has been handmade by the Lord Jesus Christ. I am not going to see him as a typical Jew. I will not expect him to reject God like all the rest of the Jews. Oh no! I am

talking to just an individual who needs to be saved as an individual and God wants to save him now.

To get me in this frame of mind I look at that person and **I ask one question.** Can you imagine what that is? What question could I ask that would help me see this person as an individual? I simply ask him, “**What is your name?**” And I think about that name. I think about who had that same name in the Bible. If I know what his name means, I tell him. If I don’t, I ask what his name means. Do you know that this is what the Lord Jesus Christ asked Jacob when Jacob was converted to become “Israel”? The Lord said to Jacob, “What is thy name?” (Genesis 32:27).

As I am going through the “what is your name” exercise, I am secretly praying to God, “O God, give me a love for this person as an individual. Free me from my selfish concerns, from prejudice, and give me the ability to have compassion on this person’s hopelessness, loneliness — longingness.” I think about what the Lord did with the rich young ruler when it says in Mark 10:21:

“Then Jesus **beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest:** go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.”

The Master **beheld** him, and **loved** him, and then **taught** him. God’s way of salvation is not a religion, it is a living person. It is the living Lord Jesus Christ, who must be personally **believed** upon, must be personally **confessed**, and must be personally **experienced**. The

emphasis on confession is very important and I want you to especially notice it. The Revised Version of the Word has stated Romans 10 verse 9 more accurately when it states:

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth that
Jesus is Lord.”

That has been the earliest creed of the Church – that
“Jesus is Lord.”

This confession was and is and will be the hardest thing
for a Jew (or any Moslem for that matter) to do:

(John 12:42-43) “Nevertheless among the chief
rulers also **many believed on him**; but because of
the Pharisees **they did not confess him**, lest they
should be put out of the synagogue: For **they loved
the praise of men more than the praise of
God.**”

No one can know individual salvation without the con-
fession of Jesus Christ as Lord. Verse 10 makes the order
very clear: FIRST,

“For **with the heart man** believeth unto
righteousness;”

and SECOND

“**with the mouth** confession is made unto
salvation.”

***Third, God’s way of salvation is Universally
Available. Verses 11-13 of Romans 10:***

“For the scripture saith, **Whosoever** believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is **no difference between the Jew and the Greek**: for the same Lord over all is **rich unto all** that call upon him. For **whosoever** shall call upon the name of **the Lord** shall be saved.”

When it comes to salvation, there is no difference between Jew and Gentile. Thank God that every person, red and yellow, black and white, male and female, rich and poor and Jew and Gentile are all on the same level at the foot of the Cross. “Whosoever” may believe and “whosoever” may call upon His name. Why? Because, “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” There is no favoritism with God. Why? Because God has shut up everyone to mercy and to mercy alone.

Even though the Jews are God’s chosen people, God is careful to show in these verses that when it comes to salvation there is no distinction. When it comes to salvation (Thank God) God is “Jew blind.” Thank God, God is color blind. Thank God, God is gender blind. God has nothing else to offer to men than His sovereign grace at the cross. We all stand there, we all kneel there, and we all bow down there. That is the only place where God meets man and Jesus Christ is Lord over all unto all that call upon Him.

God’s salvation is universally available to every Jew and Gentile in the world. I know because I have seen Jews sitting next to me on a plane to Africa reject God’s salvation, while seeing on the same trip, a Kenyan, an Egyptian and a Tanzanian call on the same name of the same Lord that the Jews rejected. If individual Jews reject God’s salvation plan, then there is going to be an African and a South American

and a Cambodian who are going to accept it. Why?
Because it is universally available. Say that with me out
loud: **“God’s salvation is universally available.”**



Beth, a Kenyan who readily received
the Lord Jesus Christ



Justin, a Tanzanian who readily received
the Lord Jesus Christ



Two Egyptians, Michael and Magit who
readily received the Lord Jesus Christ

The Challenge for Israel

Our responsibility to God for Israel is given in verses 14 and 15:

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have **not heard**? and how shall they hear without **a preacher**? And how shall they preach, except they be **sent**? As it is written, ‘How **beautiful are the feet** of them that **preach the gospel of peace**, and bring glad tidings of good things!’”

The challenge to us for Israel comes down in the form of four questions which are:

- “How then shall they **call** on him in whom they have **not believed**?
- and how shall they **believe** in him of whom they have **not heard**?
- and how shall they **hear** without **a preacher**?
- And how shall they **preach**, except they be **sent**?”

Our **first responsibility** towards Israel is to **give the correct message**. What is our message? Notice the words of verse 14: “How shall they call **on Him...**” Our message is not primarily one of doctrine and theology (although our message contains doctrine and theology). Our message is not primarily about the Church

(although the Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church). Our message is not primarily about social needs (although we are concerned about social needs). Our message **is a Person**, our message is a Person – our message is the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is why Romans 10:9 is so important. It deals with confessing that the person **Jesus, is Lord**.

Turn to Acts 2:36 - On the day of Pentecost with people from all over the world present, Peter said the words we find in Acts 2:36:

“Therefore **let all the house of Israel know assuredly**, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

That is our responsibility – to let all the house of Israel know assuredly that Jesus is Lord. That is our central message: that **Jesus is Lord**.

It was at the preaching of this Lordship of Christ, that the Holy Ghost went to work and stuck a thorn right into the hearts of lost men. So their response was:

“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”
(Acts 2:37)

They turned in desperation and said, “Show us a way out, Peter!”

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the

remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38)

God’s method of making the Gospel message known is preaching. To preach the Gospel to each Jew individually and then to ask the question: “What is it going to be — salvation or rejection? Where do you stand?”

God’s way of communicating His Gospel of peace is through preaching. A few months ago I was calling on some older Jews who remembered my grandfather, Rabbi Cantor, in Petersburg, Virginia. I called on Helen and Herman “Reds” Bassman (Reds is 95 years old and he is the oldest living Philadelphia Eagles football player). Helen remembered my grandfather. As I was urging Helen and Reds to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior since there was not much time left for them — Reds yelled across the room, “Stop preaching!”

Last week, on a flight from San Diego to New York City, I was explaining to the person sitting next to me how wonderful God’s gift of salvation was and his friend sitting behind us got into the aisle and said, “I wish this preacher would shut up.” Just then a card was being circulated for the flight attendant, Jeanette’s, birthday and I signed it, “God bless you, Jeanette, on your birthday, John 3:16”. She came running down the aisle showing the card and asking each person who it was that wrote that — I said that I did and she said, “I am a believer.” She wanted to hear how I came to the Lord. I said, “Let me come up front and speak with you...” (since from the tension in the air, it was a little hot around my seat area.) I went up front and started to share some Scriptures with her and she was so encouraged that she spun around and hugged



Jeanette, a believer, the flight attendant on the same flight with those who wanted the preaching to stop.

me. Now, I'm not a hugging person, but that was for me "Heaven's hug"!

Hell's message is "**stop** preaching" and Heaven's message is "**don't stop** preaching!" Heaven's instruction to us is to take to heart that Jews need to have the Gospel preached to them. Our responsibility is to preach the Gospel to every Jew. But, what about their unbelief? Is that a reason for us to not preach the Gospel to them? No! Why? Because salvation is **supernaturally accomplished, individually accepted and universally available**. This translates to our saying to each Jew, "You can be saved, you can be saved today, you can be saved right now."

My last point is that **we do not have much time** to fulfill our responsibility to God for Israel. This brings me to

the attached bookmark which has one theme and that is how we are all running out of time to obey God in getting the Gospel to lost Jews in need of getting to Heaven. On one side of this bookmark you will see this clock and you will notice these verses:

The first verse shows how God called Israel the fig tree:



“I saw your fathers as the firstripe (or first fruits) in the fig tree at her first time...”

(Hosea 9:10)

Then come the words of the Lord Jesus Christ in Mark 13:26-31:

“And then shall they **see the Son of man** coming in the clouds with **great power and glory**. And then shall he send his angels, and shall **gather together** his elect from the four winds, from the

uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven. Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and **putteth forth leaves, ye know** that summer is near: So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, **know** that it is nigh, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, that **this generation shall not pass**, till all these things be done. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but **my words shall not pass away.**”

This passage was the answer to the question posed by the disciples as to when the end of the age we are living in would come. The Master’s response involved what He called “a parable of the fig tree”. He said that when you see the fig tree put forth her leaves – and most Bible scholars agree that this corresponded to the time when Israel became a nation on May 14, 1948 (that date is easy for me to remember because my wife was born on May 14). The Master said that this generation would not pass away until the coming of the Son of Man back to earth. Which generation? Our generation! On May 14, 2008, we all celebrated the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel. But did that date make your heart burn to know that time is running out? Time is running out for us to give ourselves to God so that through us, He can call out His words to lost Jews (which is the verse you have at the bottom of the bookmark)

“Therefore, thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion...” (Isaiah 10:24)

The other side of the book mark gives us what we must do in the time that remains. You will see a picture of a 98

year-old Polish woman named Irena Sendler who died in May 2008. She is a great inspiration to me and I trust she will be to you also.

Her story was written up by *Reuter's News* as:

Irena Sendler used her position as a social worker to regularly enter the Warsaw Ghetto, smuggling around 2,500 Jewish children out in boxes, suitcases and hidden in trolleys. In 1943 she was arrested, tortured, and left unconscious with broken legs and arms in the woods. In 2008, before she died (at 98 years old) she said, "I continue to have pangs of conscience that I did so little."



Irena Sendler

What did Irena Sendler do? She did two things:

1st - She realized the plight of the Jews – that they were going right down the road to destruction. She let that knowledge drive her. How about you? Will you take time to contemplate the utter hopeless condition of the Jews and let that thought drive you to action?

2nd – She used her position to save the Jews. How about you? Will you use your position as a child of God with access to Heaven to pray for Jews individually? Never take for granted the privilege you have as a child of God to go right into His presence and pray for the lost. This is a privilege that the lost do not have. Will you do your best to look for opportunities to carry the Gospel to lost Jews? When you can – will you go to Jewish doctors? Jewish businesses? Just to be able to come in contact with Jews so you can carry the Gospel to them?

And when it seems inconvenient and troublesome to reach out to lost Jews – consider Irena Sendler who with broken legs and broken arms, was left to die in a wilderness. Her only lament, looking back, was not about her broken arms and broken legs but simply that she did so little. We don't have broken arms and broken legs because we reach out to help the Jews. Oh that we might have the heart of God to say we are troubled that we did so little to help them when we could.

Why should we do this? I tried to express it in a poem I wrote:

We Didn't Forget

*To seek salvation for Israel today,
To reach the Jews who've lost their way,
To will to labor in deserts alone,
And make with joy His Work our own;*

*To see the Lord is a partner with them
Who seek the Jews, His long lost gem;
To seek, to pray, to be guide to good end,
To point to God Who is their friend;*

*To urge each Jew to regain all they lost,
Confessing Him, Who, at great cost
Did give His blood and for them took the blame,
To save them from eternal shame;*

*May we, like Him, take each cruel, spiteful blow
With words, "Forgive, for they don't know."
For soon His thanks, our reward, we will get
Because His own we didn't forget.*

Amen and Amen.



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