

salvation are therefore immediately accessible to faith. We do not need to do anything. Everything necessary for our salvation has been done.

The righteousness of faith does not require some mystical, perplexing, and incredible journey or search through the world or universe to find Christ. No matter what form it takes, righteousness which is based on human achievement falls short no matter what journey man took trying to find or attain it. God has done it all. Our part is to believe the saving message. For what is impossible with man is possible with and through Christ Jesus.

2) The Word fills the heart.

a) The Gospel is near .

b) The Gospel is accessible .

Salvation is as close as your own mouth and heart. People think salvation is a difficult endeavor, but it is not. Verse 8 teaches us that faith in Christ is not unattainable but readily accessible.

Since Christ has come to earth and died for sin and rose again He and His gospel are near. Righteousness or salvation by faith is "near" or readily available to his listeners and readers. It is as near, as available as, "the word" (rh ma, "saying") of faith Paul is proclaiming (rh ma, "the spoken word" (also used in Ephesians 5:26; 6:17; 1 Peter 1:25). The gospel, "the word of faith," is available and accessible to all who will truly hear it. All one needs to do is receive the Word of faith.

God opens your heart to speak faith into your heart by His Word. As Romans 10:17 teaches, "Now faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ." God builds faith in the heart through our receiving, believing, and obeying the word of God.

God is not distant or undefinable. He is a person, near and intimate. He through His Spirit is present in the preaching of the Gospel. He is known not through mystical and indescribable experiences. He is known by making Himself known through the Word Incarnate and through His witness to the Word in its preaching and proclamation. This is "in the word of faith we are now proclaiming" (Heb. 4:12; 6:5). God has done it all. Our part is to believe His saving message.

3) The Mouth speaks for the heart.

It's said that when Henry Ward Beecher was a boy, he had a teacher at school who asked one of the boys in class a question which the boy answered. The teacher became angry and told the boy he was wrong and commanded him to: "Sit down!"

The boy was obviously confused because he'd thought he'd answered correctly, but he sat abruptly down. Several boys were asked the same question, they gave the same answer and promptly rebuked by their teacher.

Finally Beecher was asked to stand and answer the question. He gave the same answer and was commanded "Sit Down!" But Beecher held his ground and insisted that the answer was correct.

For a few moments the teacher stared at him, but seeing Beecher wasn't going to give up he smiled and said: "Well, boys, you were all correct, but Beecher was the only one sure enough to stand up for it."

Many people have lost their faith in Christ because they simply lacked the courage to stand up for what they believed. They had grown so used to apologizing for their faith that once someone mounted a serious challenge to that faith they just gave up and sat down.

a) It takes inward belief.

b) It takes outward confession.

In verses 9-11 Paul stated the content of that message of faith or in which we place our faith. The word of salvation, the word of righteousness, and confession is found in verse 9.

Saving faith takes inward belief and outward confession. Now, while I separated them here, these essentials of faith belong together. Confessing with the mouth that Jesus is Lord is mentioned first (conforming to the order of the quotation from Deuteronomy 30:14 in Romans 10:8.) Their order, however, is less important than their inseparability. Belief without confession is denial and confession without belief is ritual.

The confession with the mouth is public acknowledgment elicited by or because of an agreement with God in the inner being. What is to be acknowledged is not only that Jesus Christ is God but that you are proclaiming Him your own personal Lord. Lord is from kurios, which here signifies sovereign power and authority. Scripture never separates Christ's lordship from His saviorhood. In the entire New Testament Jesus is referred to as Savior ten times and as Lord over seven hundred times. If Jesus is not your Lord, He is not your Savior.

Another essential truth is the heart-faith "that God raised Him from the dead" (verse 7). Apart from Christ's resurrection there is no salvation. Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the supreme proof that His ministry was validated and successful. To believe that God has raised Christ from the dead includes the belief that Christ is all that He claims to be and that He accomplished all that He came to accomplish.

The resurrection was the Father's final stamp of approval on His Son and the final feature in the provision of salvation for those who trust in Him. The resurrection divinely certifies that Jesus is the Messiah, the only Savior, the sovereign and sinless Lord, the sacrificial Lamb who paid the price for our redemption. He is the Judge of All men, the Conqueror of Death, and the coming King of kings.

True belief in Christ's lordship and in His resurrection comes from the heart. The Hebrews considered the heart to be the core of one's being and the residence of the soul, the deepest, innermost part of man—where thought, will, and motive are generated. It is with the heart that man believes, and it is therefore with his heart that man determines his eternal destiny. In the heart one must forsakes His own goodness and trust the goodness or righteousness of God in Jesus Christ.

Confession of the mouth and belief in the heart are not two separate steps to salvation. They must be united together. Salvation comes through acknowledging that Christ is the Lord God and believing in Him. Heart-faith is true confidence, and involves an earnest committal of one's self and interests to the demands of the truth believed. It is like the trust children have toward their father and mother and their real friends. Heart faith will involve a voluntary state of mind but it is essentially an act of the will.

Saving faith brings about a righteous life. Faith that does not lead to a righteous life is not saving faith. The Scriptures testify that the "devils also believe and tremble," but it surely cannot be meant that demons have heart-faith. They do not believe unto righteousness. James teaches that even demons acknowledge truth about God. They are factually orthodox in their theology (James 2:19). In other words, demons believe in God. Demons have observed more of God's work and know more about His nature and power than all human beings combined, apart from the incarnate Christ. And, having originally dwelt there, they know exactly what heaven is like. They also know that they are destined for judgment, and, knowing something of what judgment means, they "shudder." James's point is that men can hold a belief that is theologically correct but that does not include reception of Jesus as Lord.

People may be well aware of their sin, be under deep conviction about it, and even have a great emotional sense of guilt from which they long to be delivered. But they do not repent and forsake the sin that causes the guilt, nor do they trust in the Savior who can forgive and remove the sin.

Verse 11 indicates how faith can transform your life. God wants to transform your life by replacing hesitation with bold confidence because of your maturing belief in the sure promises of God. So your faith might rest in the word of God, Paul quotes Isaiah 28:16 (Romans 9:33). For the blessings that do not disappoint, believe God.

Now the Bible is not saying that Christians will never be disappointed. There will be times when people let us down and when circumstances are difficult. The Bible is saying that God will keep His side of the covenant. Those who call on Him will be saved and will be eternally saved by Christ's righteousness. God responds to each individual who believes with the gift of His righteousness. Verse 12 reminded us of God's impartiality.

Conclusion

God's gives each person a gracious offer of salvation in Christ Jesus. But you must place your faith in Him by asking Him to be your Savior and Lord. You need a heart of faith because the place of faith is the heart. How can you have a believing heart? It is by opening your heart to God's gracious offer of salvation in Christ. To those who place their faith for their salvation in Christ He grants Christ's rightness. Will you believe in your heart? If so, you need to confess with your mouth. Make your confession public here and now. There is no better place. There is no better time.

To reject Christ is to reject His righteousness, the perfect standing before a Holy God that only He can provide. Those who believe in Christ receive a righteousness which we never can achieve by our own efforts as a grace gift from God. Everyone who believes in Him takes hold of the new and eternal covenant that Christ sealed and guaranteed with His own blood. Will you? Come publically and begin your acknowledging of Jesus as your Lord and Savior before men. You will find that Jesus Christ does not disappoint. You come as the Spirit leads. You will not be disappointed.

Jesus Christ Does Not Disappoint!

ASK YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The United States Congress has adjourned for recess until after Labor Day, and House Representatives and Senators will be traveling throughout their Districts hosting town halls and public forums. Here's a list of questions from the Family Research Council that should be asked of them. Even political candidates should be able to answer these things favorably or else you and I shouldn't be voting for them.

To Ask Congressmen and Senators:

1. As the Democratic Platform and Hillary Clinton call for repeal of the Hyde Amendment restriction which prevents federal funding for abortion on demand, will you oppose this effort?
2. I believe religious organizations that contract with the federal government should not be punished for their beliefs. Will you fight to protect the Russell Amendment in the House passed National Defense Authorization Act to protect the religious freedom of organizations that contract with the federal government?

3. Forcing our mothers, daughters, sisters, and wives to register for the selective service is wrong and unnecessary, especially since our voluntary force is so effective. Do you support forcing women into the draft? Will you fight to have that requirement removed from the Senate version of this year's National Defense Authorization Act and at least support the House position of commissioning a study of the issue?

4. I believe that the Obama administration's new policy to allow transgender people in the military is wrong. It also forces us taxpayers to pay for their hormone therapy and even sex reassignment surgeries. Previously, the military did not allow those with the diagnosable condition of gender dysphoria to serve in the military due to medical and combat readiness concerns. Will you urge Congress to oppose this new military policy in the National Defense Authorization Act?

5. I strongly believe that the Obama administration's Title IX transgender bathroom/shower mandate by the Department of Education threatens the safety and privacy of our young girls by allowing men to use women's bathrooms, showers, and changing rooms in our schools and universities. Will you work to oppose the Obama bathroom/shower policy from being implemented?

6. I support all that faith-based adoption and foster care agencies do in my state to help children find loving homes, yet in recent years, some states have moved to squeeze out such providers simply because they believe that kids deserve to have both a mom and a dad. Do you support the Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act (H.R. 5285/S. 2706) which would ensure that these important faith-based adoption and foster care agencies can continue their vital work?

7. Will you oppose the so-called "Equality Act" (H.R. 3185/S. 1858), which would force acceptance of special protections for homosexual and transgender behavior in 25 areas of federal law—with no religious liberty protections for people of faith who disagree?

To Ask Just Senators:

8. We all remember the atrocities against the born-alive infants whose necks were snipped by Dr. Kermit Gosnell, and we have seen the Center for Medical Progress' horrifying videos exposing Planned Parenthood trafficking in baby body parts, including possibly on born alive infants! Do you oppose infanticide, and can you promise to cosponsor and vote for Senator Ben Sasse's Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (S. 2066), which the House passed, to enforce and strengthen the principle that born-alive infants are to be protected by law even if they were born after a failed abortion attempt?

9. Since President Obama's Department of Health and Human Services refused to enforce federal conscience laws barring funding to states which discriminate against prolife health care entities, including health care plans offered by churches, will you support Senator James Lankford's Conscience Protection Act (S. 2927), which the House already passed?

10. With the next president to fill the vacancy on Justice Scalia's seat on the Supreme Court—will you promise only to vote to approve a nominee who will defend the original meaning of the Constitution and will overturn *Roe v. Wade* and *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which forced abortion and gay marriage on all 50 states?

To download a pdf copy of this letter, go to:

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, August 7, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough, Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, August 10

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, August 11

R Team.....6:30 pm

Saturday, August 13

Women's Bible Study....9:00 am

Sunday, August 14, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel, Ken Kirkpatrick, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, August 17

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, August 18

O Team.....6:30 pm

Saturday, August 20

Women's Bible Study....9:00 am

Up-Coming Events.....

August 10 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

August 13 — Women's Bible Study 9:00 am

August 14 — Collection Day for Food Pantry

August 15 — St. Joseph Public and Christian Schools resume

August 18 — Food Pantry

August 20 — Women's Bible Study 9:00 am

August 28 — Diversicare 2:30 pm

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

Sunday Nights

We will have Sunday Evening Service here tonight. Hope to see you there next week.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will meet this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Prayer matters!

Prayer Warriors **August 10, 10:00am**

Diversicare Nursing Home

August 28, 2016
at 2:30 pm

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

Sunday School Worker's Meeting

Monday, August 29
6:30 pm

School Starts...

August 15, 2016

Please be in prayer for our teachers, students and faculty as school will be back in session for the 2016-2017 school year.

Dear Calvary Baptist Church,

I have received word that our Food Pantry reserves are close to being depleted. If your church has been collecting or would like to collect, the need is great! Especially for those kid friendly, easily prepared foods (we are down

to 5 cans of soup). Please let me know if there is anything we can do to transport donations or facilitate a food drive.

*Blessings,
Stacy L. Bollmeyer, MSW
Administrative Assistant
InterServ Foundation
816-238-4511*

For the Record-

Sunday School.....	47
Visitors.....	11
Total.....	58
Contacts Made.....	1
Morning Worship.....	72
Children's Worship.....	N/A
Sunday Night	8
Wednesday Night	13

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget..... \$ 2,040.52
Offering Received... \$1,872.56

Offering Received by Mail:

August Counting Team:

Bill Schottel and John Lewis

August Van Driver:

Mike Green
Call 232-3747 before 8 am

August Member Birthdays:

02...Darlene Messner
09...Dottie Wildberger
18...Don Beavers
18...Tonia Meers
22...Beverly Lewis

August Anniversaries

David and Annette Schottel
August 5, 1989

Tim and Sharon Waters
August 10, 1985

Prayer Requests ...

Nellie Reynolds—heart condition
Betty Campbell—healing
Pat Puckett—eyes, healing
Marcia Hart's Family
Audrey Dugan—recovery
Tim Izer and Family
Sue Higgins—regain strength
Jim Winans, surgery recovery
Alicia McKinnon
Dakota Duty, recovery
Robbie Hutcherson, Loleta's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
Children's Camp
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Maxine and George Ferbert—strength
Buddy Means—Mary Sharp's nephew
Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—
 Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris
 Richardson's sisters
Henrietta Caballero—Brigida's Sister
Austin Chalfant—Abby's nephew
Gary and Marilyn Singleton—health
Audrey Dugan Bob Barquist
Kathryn Beavers Ann Riddle
Louanne Laurence Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Leona Reynolds
Kevin Duty Kenny Duty
Madeline Swink Bobby Griswold
Bill Haskins Debbie Sands
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
