

Sunday, February 27, 2022—Questions About Romans 10:9-10 & The Sinner’s Prayer, Part 2

Introduction/Review

- Last week I began answering a question from one of our members about Romans 10:9-10 and the so-called Sinners Prayer.
- This question came up because of some discrepancies between what I had taught on this subject and Brother David O’Steen’s message from 9/29/21 “Romans 10:9-13 Correcting Over Corrections.”
- Last week in part one we covered the following:
 - What is the Sinner’s Prayer?
 - Historical Origin—John Bunyan’s 1678 publication *Pilgrim’s Progress*.
 - 3 Examples of the Sinner’s Prayer—Billy Graham, Campus Crusade, Southern Baptist Convention
 - Theological problems with the Sinner’s Prayer
 - Touched on the dispensational/context consideration at the end of the message.
 - Prayer can be a work (Col. 4:12)
 - The word “prayer” cannot be found in the context of Romans 10.
- This morning we want to continue looking at context of Romans and hopefully arrive at some conclusions on this matter.

The Context of Romans 10

- As we saw last week, in 2012 the Southern Baptist Convention saw fit to reaffirm the “Sinner’s Prayer” based upon the text of Romans 10:9-10.
- Romans chapter 10 is in the middle of the dispensational section of Romans where Paul is explaining to his readers what happened to Israel.
 - Romans 9—Israel’s Past Election

- Romans 10—Israel’s Present Rejection
- Romans 11—Israel’s Future Salvation
- Romans 11:13—in Romans 9-11, Paul is talking to Gentiles about Israel.
- Romans 10:1-4—Paul’s prayer is that Israel might be saved. The problem was the Israel was going about seeking to establish her own rightness.
 - Romans 9:1-3
- Romans 10:5
 - Leviticus 18:5, 10
- Romans 10:6
 - Deuteronomy 30:12-13
 - Romans 9:30-33—the “righteous of faith” that Israel sought after is still available through Paul’s Gentile ministry.
- Romans 10:8
 - Deuteronomy 30:14
 - “which we preach”—Paul is talking about something the he was preaching. Was Paul preaching a different gospel to Jews and Gentiles during the Acts period? No.
- Romans 10:9-10
 - Matthew 10:32—did Romans 10:9 say anything about confessing Christ before men?
 - Luke 12:8
 - John 12:42—in Israel’s program you had to do both. For me this settle the matter.
 - Romans 10:9—was anyone believing in the Gospels believing in their heart that God raised Christ from the dead for salvation?

- Matthew 16:21-22
 - Luke 24:13-27—even after the resurrection the Apostles were not trusting in it for their salvation.
 - Acts 3:12-18
 - Who was preaching belief in the resurrection of Christ for salvation? Paul. What is the last phrase of verse 8? “Which we preach.” Paul is talking about what he was preaching in the text of Romans 10
- Romans 10:11
 - Isaiah 28:16, 49:23
- Romans 10:12-13—is this doctrine for current dispensation?
 - Romans 3:21-28—Paul is saying things in Romans 10 about the current age.
 - Romans 11:5-6—confession and calling upon the Lord can’t be a work.
- Prayer is not the issues in salvation. Faith is the issue. Faith in what Christ accomplished for us.
- It is wrong to tell people that they must pray to be saved. Paul never said in the passage that you must pray or say anything to be saved.
- Confession is not merely saying words. It is personal agreement with God about something. The Greek word rendered “confess” carries the following meanings:
 - to say the same thing as another, i.e. to agree with, assent
 - to concede
 - not to refuse, to promise
 - not to deny
 - to confess
 - declare
 - to confess, i.e. to admit or declare one's self guilty of what one is accused of
 - to profess
 - to declare openly, speak out freely
 - to profess one's self the worshipper of one

- to praise, celebrate
- According to Noah Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language* the English word "[confess](#)" carries the following meanings:
 - To own, acknowledge or avow, as a crime, a fault, a charge, a debt, or something that is against one's interest, or reputation.
- I John 4:1-2—words are not the issue faith is.
 - Mark 5:7-8—says words identifying who Christ is but doesn't believe them.
 - Mark 1:21-28
- Romans 10:9-10—the mouth expresses what is believed in the heart.
 - Matthew 12:34—" . . . out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."
 - II Corinthians 4:13
 - II Corinthians 6:11
- I Corinthians 1:2
- II Timothy 2:22
- I Timothy 6:12
- Romans 10:13-14—is making a spiritual application. One can call on the Lord without saying words out loud.