

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

Do you have a few pet peeves in your life? You know the things that tend to grate on your nerves? When I served as a youth minister, I had a few things that tended to always irritate me. One of those pet peeves dealt with evangelists. After a really good sermon, some would begin asking questions like, “Do you remember the time and place and the color of the walls when you got saved?” Or “Did you allow Jesus in your heart and did you say the sinners prayer with the right words when you got saved?” If you did not answer these questions correctly, you were encouraged to do it all again just so that you could be sure. I would have youth come to me convinced that the commitment they had made to God the previous year at camp was probably done wrong, because at some point, they did not “feel” saved, or because they still struggled with sin.

This very simple verse is one of the most important verses in scripture when it comes to understanding salvation. A person must believe that “Jesus is Lord.” The Greek word being used is Yahweh, therefore it is a statement that says “Jesus is God.” This means that Jesus has absolute, unlimited and universal authority. Based on this verse, salvation is not based on your methods, feelings, and ability to earn salvation. It is only based on your faith that Jesus is the son of God and that He overcame death itself to provide salvation to you. Without the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we would only have a very good system of ethics. When you believe in the resurrection of Jesus and He becomes your Lord, then it is natural to be obedient. Your inward conviction will lead you to an outward profession of faith.

In this verse, Paul is dealing with Jews who believed that you had to earn salvation. Paul responds that the only way to salvation is through “faith.” It’s that simple. Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead on the 3rd day? Have you confessed in your heart that Jesus is your Lord and Savior? If yes, then you have been placed in a special relationship with God that has provided you with salvation. It is that simple. It does not matter how you feel. It does not mean you will always make the right choices. It means that your faith is based on a trust that God is real and that you have a relationship with Him. It means you are willing to follow Christ by being obedient to HIM.

Read Romans 10:5-13

--Lane