Rom. 10:9-13; Heb. 11:1-3; The Good News of the Gospel I. Believe II. Confess III. Saved

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ, everyone likes to hear good news. Anything that follows- congratulations- is news to our ears. But of all the good news that we could hear, the best news is this. You have been saved! Today we celebrate with the Kreykes family and the Bakker family because this good news has been received in our midst. There are times in our lives when we are the recipients of good news. Like a soldier hearing the news that the war is over- you are going home. Or a runner hearing- you got first place and you have broken a record. Even a student who hears from their teacher- you did very well on your exam. But for sinners to hear that they are forgiven and dearly loved by God- this truly is the best news we could hope to hear! So today we will be focusing on Rom. 10:9 where we find the good news of the gospel applied to God’s people. In Rom. 10, Paul is currently outlining the message of salvation and he focuses on the good news of the Word. What does the Bible promise to God’s people? What is the good news that the Scriptures contain for us? Confess and believe and you will be saved.

**I. Believe**

So we start in our first point, those who would receive this good news must be those who believe. Good news if for the believer! But what or whom do we believe? Believe the Word that has been declared to you. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Now to believe is to rely on someone else- to look to someone else for help and aid. Now it is unwise to believe everyone- or to trust everything you read. Listening to the wrong person will get you lost. But those who trust in Jesus will never be lead astray! We could say that believing in someone is to lean on them- to depend on them. To believe is to trust- to have faith and to put your confidence in someone. Notice that our faith is in someone- we believe in Jesus Christ and we trust in His works to save. We believe that His word is true- that His promises are reliable. There are three parts to true faith- knowledge, assent and trust. Or as HC LD 7 defines, true faith is knowledge, conviction and assurance. Heb. 11 defines faith as the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen. We notice that faith is trusting in someone else- our faith is the object of our trusting but the one in whom we trust! In other words- we do not put our faith in our faith- but we have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. As Eph. 2 puts it, by grace we have been saved through faith. Faith is an instrument that connects us to Jesus Christ- faith is the way in which Christ’s blessings come to us. So faith is the means by which we trust in Christ- the manner by which we are joined to Christ. Faith is the open hand that clings to Christ. This faith has a specific content as well. Not only trusting in Christ- but believing what Christ said. As our text said- believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. So true faith knows something- and believes that these things are true. True faith knows and is certain that Jesus Christ is Lord- that He died and was raised from the dead by the Faith. We believe that Jesus not only died- but that He lives! Stately broadly, true faith believes what the Bible says. The content of the Scriptures is summarized in the Apostles Creed. So those who would be saved must know about God the Father and our creation, God the Son and our redemption and God the Holy Spirit and our sanctification. And more than that- we have a confidence in this God who has revealed Himself in His Word. This belief in God is formed in our hearts. As it is said, the heart is the seat of religion. As our text says- we believe in our heart. More than just a head knowledge- more than just an academic familiarity with data- God’s people have this truth impressed on their hearts! The Holy Spirit has sown the seed of the Word within so that they have this assurance in their inner being. I know that this is true- and this truth has been applied to me! I am the beneficiary of these events. This truth faith is contrasted to skepticism. Faith is opposed to doubt. Today it seems that skepticism is praised by all- doubt everything! Question everything. Don’t believe what anyone tells you. You can’t know anything for certain. But true faith does know something for certain- that Jesus is the Son of God who was sent to take away my sins! Added to this, faith is the opposed to fear. Perfect faith casts out fear as I John 4 puts it. Instead of being filled with worry and dread- believing in the presence and power of God calms our fears. When I am afraid, I will trust in you as Psalm 56 says. Now this is where we start to see the good news! Our world is so skeptical and so fearful! The temptation is to run and hide- but here we find the boldness to stand firm! We know who made all things- and we believe in the living Savoir who rules over all! So do not doubt- and do not be afraid! Trust in Him with all your heart! So then, believing in God is the work of the Spirit by which we depend and rely on Jesus. And as v. 10 applies- with the heart one believes and is justified.

**II. Confess**

Continuing we find that not only are God’s people known as those who believe, they are also the ones who confess. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. Not only is true faith something that lives within your heart- it is also to be evident to others. There is a verbal aspect to this truth faith. As we have witnessed with Noah and Libby this morning, God’s people are called to stand and confess what they believe before the church and the watching world. Now to be clear, a public confession is simply the outworking of that faith which saves. We are not saved by faith and saved by confessing. But it is also true, that when faith is genuine it will also be evident. A public confession is part of our good works- the fruit of being a true and living Christian. Remember that good works are those actions that are done in accordance with God’s word, for God’s glory and from a heart of faith. So it is, our public profession is for God’s glory and it proceeds from a heart of faith. Jesus wants His people to be visible- to shine like a light in the dark night. There is no such thing as a secret or private follower of Jesus. In fact, as Jesus warns in Matthew 10, if you deny Him before others, He will deny you before His Father! But He also promises- if you confess me before men, He will confess your name before His Father. So Jesus calls us- and He delights when we acknowledge Him before others. So a public profession of faith is the visible evidence of true faith. It is external proof of an inward reality. For example, if a couple is truly in love and they have a healthy marriage, that marriage will be evident in very visible ways. One clear, cultural way is in the wearing of a wedding band. Now the wedding band does not make them married- but it is a sign of that marriage for others to see. It is also a reminder to the husband and wife- a constant cue to their identity. So it is with your profession of faith- it is cue to the world and constant reminder of your identity. This is who I am- I am a child of God! I am member of Christ and His people. So exactly what are we to confess? What the content of this profession? Well, you need to confess that you are a sinner that needs to be saved. Added to that, you confess that you know who Jesus is and what He has done. And finally- you confess that you have placed your faith in Him. That He is your Lord our text says- Jesus is my master! I am not my own- I belong to Jesus! Again, this aspect of our faith is a challenge today. We live a world that is increasingly hostile to Christ and His people. It is the fear of men that keeps us silent. But we must be unashamed of who we are and what Jesus has done for us! Let the world deride me- let my enemies mock me- let them say what they will- even still I will believe and confess the truth! For with the mouth, one confesses and is saved. As a trumpet needs breath to be heard- so faith needs our voice to be genuine.

**III. Saved**

Lets continue one- for if you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart, you will be saved! Here we come to payout- it is here we find the final benefit. You will be saved. To be saved is to be delivered. Salvation is a rescue. Those who are saved are set free from bondage and delivered from condemnation. The same idea is found in v. 10- to be justified. To be saved is to be declared righteous- free from guilt. To be saved is to have peace with God and to be heir of life everlasting. Notice that Paul says that they will be saved. This is promise of something future. Those who believe in Jesus will be saved in that their bodies will be resurrected, and their eternity will be one of blessing and peace. So it is a promise in this sense- what we will have is not yet seen. Salvation is a future promise and a certain pledge. He will never turn away those who call upon Him. He will never let His beloved ones see corruption. But added to this fact, we could also say that salvation is a present reality. Those who believe in Jesus are already saved. We already have been raised to new life! This is clear from the fact that if we already believe, the Spirit has already given us a new heart. And those who are born again are already saved! We find this same question in Acts 16- what must I do to be saved? The answer is, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved! The word of God is not obscure here- the promise is not difficult to understand. The meaning of these words is not hard to grasp. It is simply stated- believe in Jesus Christ- confess Him as your Lord- and you will be saved!

But this raises and important distinction. Who will be saved? V. 13 answers this question. The answer is- everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. The promise of salvation is not universally given to all people. V. 13 does not say- everyone will be saved. Rather everyone who calls on the name of the Lord. So salvation is not a universal gift- it is reserved for those who repent and believe. But let’s not make this promise a small thing. Let’s not make the circle too small either. Note this fact- everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved! It is open invitation - if you believe on the Lord and you will be saved! Trust in the Lord and you too will be saved! Place your faith in Jesus- and you also will be the recipient of God’s riches and salvation! This is a promise- anyone from any nation. Any person from any place- whoever calls on the names of the Lord will be saved! A wonderful promise for us- and for everyone! So here again is the good news! The promise of salvation is a promise for all to hear! Jesus will never turn away someone who calls- as John 6 says- I will never turn away someone who follows me! Whoever comes to me, I will never cast out! So this promise stands today. Noah and Libby- anyone here- any of you who trust in Jesus- anyone who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ with all their heart- to these the promise of eternal salvation has been given! You will have all your sins forgiven, your bodies will one day be raised from the dead- and you will spend eternity with the Lord in glory- enjoying the riches bestowed upon you by our gracious God! Do not doubt- only believe!

As we close, everyone likes to hear good news. But what about this- congratulations, you have been saved by the Lord Jesus Christ! This is the kind of news that I want to hear! The message of salvation by believing in Jesus Christ and confessing His name is a message for all! Not just our church- not just those gathered here- but everyone- anyone- let him who has an ear, hear this good news! Good news of great joy for all people- because a savior has been born! He is Jesus- for He saves His people from their sins! This is the good news of the gospel applied to God’s people! Believe and confess and you will be saved!