

Devotion: July 28, 2020

Romans 10:5-15

5 Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' ¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

Check your feet

Give me your toes, your arches, your bunions. Let them be beautiful!

Bring on the Good News!

The good news is that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; or, in the classic words of the apostle, "*if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved*" (v. 9).

That's the solution to ugly feet and also to sin, the one and only antidote to guilt. Both the declaration of guilt and the emotion of shame are lifted in and through Christ. "*No one who believes in him will be put to shame*" (v. 11).

This makes a surprising but oddly logical sort of sense, when you think about it. After all, we know from painful personal experience that freedom from sin and guilt is never going to come from our human effort.

Can the damage that we have done over the years be fully repaired, the cruel words retracted, the mistakes erased, the betrayals obliterated, the failures reversed and the long list of selfish and sinful acts wiped clean? Not by our own efforts. It usually requires the gracious forgiveness of another party.

We have no "spell-check" or "sin-check" for our condition. No computer icon that will take us back over the story of our lives -- from the very beginning of the document -- and instantly repair all the mistakes we've made.

No sin-check. But we do have a savior.

Paul reminds us that freedom from sin and guilt never comes from doing, but from being; not from law, but from grace; not by works, but by faith. We are invited to enter into a relationship with a savior, Jesus Christ. We are offered the grace of a God who truly wants to free us from the burden of our guilt. We are told that we can access this gift of forgiveness through faith in God's Son, Jesus. It's all about being in relationship, receiving grace and experiencing faith.

What frees us from the guilt glut is not a lot of feel-good, do-gooder works -- deeds that make us proud of ourselves for an hour or two. What really lifts our burden for all time is the good work of our Savior on the cross, when through his selfless sacrifice he absorbed the guilt of all people everywhere and performed a spiritual sin-check for the world.

Christ's death on the cross turned our glut of guilt into a flood of forgiveness.

Found this on the web and it made my day

To a Beautiful Person:

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

If he had a wallet, your photo would be in it.

He sends you flowers every spring.

He sends you a sunrise every morning.

Whenever you want to talk, he listens.

He can live anywhere in the universe,

but ... he chose your heart.

Not to mention those beautiful feet.

As we come to you in prayer, O God, we offer our thanks that you are always present to us even though there are times when we are not present to you. We thank you that you call us by name, even though there are times when we take your name in vain. We are sorry for the times when we have not been present to you, and for all the times when we have looked for you in all the wrong places. We ask that you would instill in us a sensitivity to your presence as we find your glory in the majesty of a sunset and in the smile of a child. We are thankful that when we find a human need and fill it, you are there. We offer gratitude for the courage of martyrs who confront conflict with nonviolence. Help us likewise to search for options for a better way. Awaken us to the opportunities for ministry. Inspire us to pray for peace and for healing of our broken world and our broken relationships. Expand our horizons that we might know that wherever we are, you are there for even as we seek you, you have already found us. Help us to so live out our lives that when we meet you face to face, we might hear you say, "You are my beloved son; you are my beloved daughter. With you, I am well pleased." Amen.