

“The Burden Of Christ”
Romans 10:1-4

Introduction:

1. On Sunday Nights This Year:
 - We Have Been Exploring Together:
 - The Christian Classic Written Over 300 Years Ago:
 - By John Bunyan - The Pilgrims Progress!
 - And - In That Book:
 - We First Met A Man Whose Name Was Christian:
 - Who Was Out Walking In The Fields:
 - With A Book In His Hand - And:
 - A Great Big Burden On His Back!
 - And - So Far Through Our Story:
 - Christian’s Number One Desire:
 - Was To Get Rid Of His Burden!
 - Because He Knew That If He Died:
 - With That Burden Still On His Back:
 - It Would Sink Him All The Way To Hell!
 - And What Was That Burden?
 - The Burden Of All His Sin & All His Guilt!
2. Well - Before Anyone Meets Jesus:
 - We All Have That Same Burden!
 - Not On Our Backs - But In Our Hearts!
 - And - One Of The Great Promises We Have In Christ Is That:
 - He Is “Faithful And Just To Forgive Us Our Sins, And To Cleanse Us From All Unrighteousness” - If You But:
 - “Confess With Thy Mouth The Lord Jesus, And Shalt Believe In Thine Heart That God Hath Raised Him From The Dead!”
 - Jesus Alone Can Take Away:
 - The Burden Of Your Sin!
 - But - Then - Jesus Also Says:
 - In Matthew 11:29-30 - “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. / For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light!”
 - So - When You Get Rid Of One Burden:
 - You Take Upon Yourself:
 - Another Burden!
 - But This Burden Is - The Burden Of Christ!
 - But - His Yoke Is Easy - He Says:
 - And His Burden Is Light!
 - 3. And - I Believe This Morning:
 - As We Head Back In Our Bibles To Romans 10:
 - We Will Find That Part Of The Burden Of Christ:
 - Is A Burden:
 - Not - Of Sin:
 - Like We All Once Had!
 - But Its A Burden
 - For Sinners:
 - Like Us!
 - Because - Even Though:
 - As We’ve Seen All Throughout Romans 9:
 - So Many Of The People Of Israel:
 - Had Rejected Jesus As Their Christ:
 - It Doesn’t Change:
 - His Heart For Them And His Burden For Them!
 - 4. And So - In Romans 10:1-4:
 - We Read These Words From The Apostle Paul:
 - “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. / For I bear them

- record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. / For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. / For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth!"
- When Paul Begins This Chapter:
 - With The Word "Brethren" - He Is Writing Especially:
 - To His Brothers & Sisters In Christ:
 - In Rome!
 - So - For The Most Part:
 - A Church Made Up Of Gentiles!
 - Even Though There Were:
 - Vast Differences In Their:
 - History & Culture & Heritage:
 - They Were - In & Through Jesus Christ - A Family!
- And - As A Family:
 - I Think Paul Uses This Term Of Endearment:
 - To Call Them & Us:
 - To Have The Same Feeling - And:
 - The Same Burden:
 - That He Has - For The "Lost Sheep Of The House Of Israel!"
- And So - Beginning In 10:1 - We See:
 - Not Only The Kind Of Burden Paul Had:
 - But Also - The Kind Of Burden:
 - We Need To Have! A Burden:

1. For Their Conversion!

- Their Conversion And Salvation:
 - Which Is Why Paul Writes:
 - "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved!"
 - Salvation Is:
 - Paul's Greatest Desire:
 - For His Countrymen!
 - That Is - Deliverance:
 - From The Burden Of Their Sin!
 - The Great Theme Of The Scriptures Is:
 - Salvation!
 - By Grace Through Faith In Jesus Christ!
 - And That Salvation Is:
 - As We Sometimes Sing:
 - "So Rich And Free!"
 - God's Salvation Is Rich:
 - Because It Is Full!
 - Jesus Christ Offers - What Some Have Described:
 - A Four-Fold Salvation!
 - A Deliverance From - Not Only:
 - The Penalty Of Sin!
 - But Deliverance Also From:
 - The Power Of Sin!
 - The Presence Of Sin! And Even:
 - The Pleasure Of Sin!
 - And The Gospel Of God's Salvation:
 - Is One Of Those:
 - "One Size Fits All Gifts!"
 - For Any & All Who Believe!
 - And - It Is Such A Good Gift:
 - That Paul Wanted Everyone To Receive It!
 - Especially The People Of Israel!
 - So - He Tells Us About:
- The Kind Of Passion:

- He Had & We Need:
 - For The Salvation Of Sinners!
 - He Says - "My Heart's Desire" Is:
 - Their Salvation! And:
- This Desire Was:
 - An Intense Desire!
 - It Was Strong And Vibrant!
 - What He Says Here Is An Echo:
 - Of What He Wrote Back In 9:2-3:
 - "That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. / For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh!"
 - How Could Paul Feel This Way? Because:
- This Desire Was:
 - An Intimate Desire!
 - It Came From His Heart!
 - And His Heart Was Full Of Love:
 - Even Christ-Like Love:
 - For Them!
- Paul's Heart's Desire:
 - Was Just A Reflection Of:
 - Christ's Heart Desire!
 - In John 5:34 - Jesus Said:
 - "But These Things I Say, That Ye Might Be Saved!"
 - And - In Luke 13:34 - Jesus Cries Out:
 - "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem – How Often Would I Have Gathered Thy Children Together, As A Hen Doth Gather Her Brood Under Her Wings!"
- But - This Great Passion:
 - For Their Salvation:
 - Didn't Just Remain In Paul' Heart!
 - It Needed An Outlet!
 - **IE:** Like When The Pressure In A Tea Kettle Builds Up - It Needs An Outlet!
 - And The Outlet For Paul's Passion:
 - Was Prayer! And So We See:
- The Kind Of Prayer:
 - He Had & We Need:
 - For The Salvation Of Sinners!
 - He Says - 10:1 - "My Heart's Desire **AND** Prayer To God For Israel Is, That They Might Be Saved!"
 - Paul's Passion & Prayer:
 - Where Combined Into One!
 - He Didn't Just Let His Burden:
 - Linger In His Heart!
 - He Immediately Brought It:
 - To The "Throne Of Grace!"
- Because He Knew That His Heart:
 - Reflected The Heart Of God!
 - Who - According To 2 Peter 3:9 - Is "Not Willing That Any Should Perish, But That All Should Come To Repentance!"
 - Do You Have This Same Kind Of Burden This Morning:
 - For The Salvation Of Sinners?
 - For Those You Might Know & Love?
 - Even For Those You Might Not?
 - Perhaps You Struggle Sometimes:
 - Even Knowing What To Pray For:
 - About Someone!
 - Well - This Is A Great Place To Start!

- May **Our** Heart's Desire & Prayer To God:
 - For **All** Men Be:
 - "That They Might Be Saved!"
- After All:
 - This Is The Burden Of Christ Himself!
 - This Is Why He Came Himself!
 - "To Seek And To Save That Which Was Lost!" (Luke 19:10)
- But Then - Back In 10:2 - We Also See Paul's Burden:

2. ***For Their Confusion!***

- Their Confusion And Zeal:
 - Which Is Why Paul Writes:
 - 10:2 - "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge!"
 - Here - Paul Gives A Positive Testimony:
 - About One Particular Characteristic That The People Of Israel Were Known For!
 - They Possessed "A Zeal Of - For - God!"
 - In The Bible:
 - "Zeal" Describes The Passion In A Person's Heart & Life!
 - **IE:** It Comes From A Word That Means To "Boil / Bubble Over" - Like That Water In The Tea Kettle! Can Be Good Or Bad!
 - But, Zeal Can Be A Good Thing If It Is In The Right Thing!
 - And Paul Commended:
 - The People Of Israel:
 - For Their Zeal! Because:
- Their Zeal Was Strong!
 - It Was Headed In The Right Direction - And:
 - Placed Upon The Right Object!
 - They Had & Many Still Have:
 - "A Zeal Of God!"
 - And Paul Understood Where They Were Coming From!
 - After All - At One Time:
 - He Was Just Like Them:
 - And Even Had A Greater Zeal!
 - In Galatians 1:14 - He Tells Us What He Was Like Before He Was Saved:
 - He Had - "Profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers!"
 - So - Like Paul:
 - Their Zeal For God:
 - Was Good!
 - But Also - Like Paul:
 - Their Zeal For God:
 - Was Not Good Enough!
 - Because - As He Adds In 10:2:
- Their Zeal Was Short!
 - Though They Were Persistent:
 - In Their Pursuit Of God:
 - It Was Insufficient!
 - Their Zeal For God:
 - Was "Not According To Knowledge!"
 - Now - This Does Not Mean:
 - That They Didn't Know Anything About God - Because They Were Told A Lot About God!
 - But - They Didn't Have:
 - The Right Knowledge & The Right Understanding:
 - Of The Lord & His Ways!
 - They Knew A Lot About:
 - Their Responsibilities:
 - Under The Law Of God! But:

- They Didn't Understand:
 - The Reasons:
 - For Which God Gave Them His Law!
- Like The Pharisees:
 - In Luke 11:42 - As Jesus Said To Them:
 - "Ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone!"
- And The Apostle Paul Was Burdened For Them:
 - Because - Their Knowledge:
 - About God And His Ways:
 - Was Incomplete!
 - IE: Like Me Trying To Fix My Car - Using Resources - Manuals / YouTube - But - I'm Not A Mechanic! Sometimes Incomplete Knowledge Can Be A Dangerous Thing!
 - What Was True In Paul's Day:
 - Is Still True In Our Day!
 - There Is Still A Lot Of Zeal:
 - In Religion!
 - And - That Zeal:
 - Can Even Be Commended!
 - But - When That Zeal:
 - Is Misplaced:
 - It Can Be A Dangerous Thing!
 - Even In Christian Circles:
 - You Can Be Very Sincere In What You Believe!
 - And Still Be Sincerely Wrong!
 - You Can Be Very Strong In What You Believe!
 - And Still Come Up Short!
 - Remember What Jesus Said In:
 - Matthew 7:21-22 - "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. / Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? / And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity!"
 - Do You Have This Same Kind Of Burden?
 - For Yourself? For Others?
 - Who May Have "A Zeal Of God, But Not According To Knowledge!"
 - Well - The Reason For This Leads Us To See A Burden Also:

3. ***For Their Condition!***

- Their Condition Concerning Righteousness!
 - 10:3 - "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God!"
 - Here - Paul Explains More About:
 - The Lack Of Knowledge His People Had!
 - It Was:
 - An Ignorance Of God's Righteousness!
 - The Righteousness That Paul Is Talking About Here:
 - Is Not Just The Righteousness:
 - And Holiness That:
 - He Possesses!
 - But It Is The Righteousness:
 - That He Provides:
 - To Sinners - By Declaring Them To Be Right With Him:
 - Because Of Their Faith In & Relationship With Jesus Christ!
 - After All - This Is The Great Theme Of Romans:
 - 5:1 - "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ!"

- So - This Was Their Problem!
 - This Was Their Condition!
 - They Were “Ignorant Of God’s Righteousness” & The Way He Provided Them To Be Right With Him!
 - **IE:** But - As Any Good Judge Might Tell You - Ignorance Is Not A Defense! If You Get Pulled Over For A Traffic Infraction - It Doesn’t Matter If You Know The Laws Or Not - The Manual Has Been Written! Its Up To You To Read It, Understand It, Apply It!
 - But - This Kind Of Ignorance Is True - Not Just Of The Jewish Nation - But The Gentile Nations Too! And So - This Ignorance Led To:
- An Independence From God’s Righteousness!
 - What Happens When People Ignore:
 - What God Has Provided To Them In Christ?
 - Same Thing That Happens:
 - When You Ignore The Drivers Manual! You Start To Do Your Own Thing!
 - This Is Why - In 10:3 - Paul Adds:
 - “For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness – [go] about to establish their own righteousness!”
 - Or - What They **Think**:
 - Will Put Them In A Right Relationship With God!
 - Now - As Time Goes On:
 - It Seems Like More & More People:
 - Don’t Care About What God Thinks About Them:
 - Because They Don’t Believe In God In The First Place!
 - But - Either Way:
 - People Try To “Establish Their Own Righteousness!”
 - Either To Be Approved:
 - By God Or By Man!
 - And That So-Called Righteousness:
 - May **Look** Like True Righteousness:
 - In Some Ways! It May Even:
 - **Feel** Like It! And You May Even:
 - **Fool** Others By It!
 - But Its **Fake!**
 - **IE:** As Fake As A \$3 Bill! It’s A Counterfeit Righteousness!
 - Because There Can Be No Substitute:
 - To The Righteousness Of God:
 - In Order To Be Right With God!
 - But - This Independence Will Inevitably Lead To:
- An Insolence Against God’s Righteousness!
 - Because - 10:3 - By:
 - “Going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God!”
 - To “Submit Yourself To The Righteousness Of God” Means:
 - To Surrender Yourself:
 - To God’s Way Of Entering Into His Presence!
 - And - What Is God’s Way?
 - Jesus Christ!
 - And How Do You Submit?
 - By Turning To & Trusting In Him Alone:
 - For Your Salvation!
 - Because Then & Only Then:
 - Can You Stand Before Him!
 - “Dressed In His Righteousness Alone, Faultless To Stand Before The Throne!”
- You See - Earlier In Romans:
 - Paul Told Us About:
 - The Gentile Nations:
 - And How They Followed The Ways Of Wickedness:
 - With “Reckless Abandon!”

- Well - Here - He Is Telling Us About:
 - The Jewish Nation:
 - And How They Followed The Works Of The Law:
 - With “Zealous Adherence!”
- But - The Truth Is:
 - Both Ways:
 - Are Man’s Own Ways:
 - And Are The Evidence:
 - Of A Proud & Presumptuous Heart:
 - Against God And His Way!
- And - We Need To Have A Burden:
 - For Their Condition - Just Like Paul Did!
 - Just Like Christ Did!
 - In Matthew 9:35-38 - “And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. / But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. / Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; / Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest!”
 - This Is The Burden Of Christ!
 - But Then - Back In 10:4 - We Find Paul’s Burden:

4. For Their Cure!

- Which - Of Course - *Is Christ!*
 - 10:4 - “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth!”
 - **IE:** Just Like - In A Race - The Finish Line Is Both The End Of The Race & The Goal Of The Race - So Is Jesus Christ!
 - The Law Of God - That Is Found In The Old Testament:
 - That The Jewish People Thought Could Make Them Right With God:
 - Was Only Meant To Point Them To The Only One Who Could Keep It & Then - Save Them!
 - And So - When Jesus Came:
 - He Came - Not - “To Destroy The Law, Or The Prophets” – “But To Fulfil!” (Matthew 5:17)
 - And So He Did!
 - Because - What Is:
 - The Basic Essence & End:
 - Of God’s Law?
 - As We Learned Last Year:
 - And As We Are Told In:
 - 1 Timothy 1:5 - “Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned!”
 - Jesus Himself Said That:
 - The “First And Great Commandment” Is “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind!” And “The second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself!”
 - And - This Is The Love:
 - That Is Perfectly Fulfilled:
 - In Jesus Christ!
 - So That Now:
- The Result Of Christ:
 - Is “Righteousness!”
 - 10:4 - “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness!”
 - The Righteousness You Need:
 - To Be Right With God:
 - Can Only Be Found:
 - In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - You Do Not Need To - And:

- You Must Not:
 - Look Any Further:
 - Than Him!
- But Then - Paul Adds:
- The Reach Of Christ!
 - Christ & His Righteousness:
 - Is Available & Offered To:
 - “Every One!”
 - The Righteousness Of Christ:
 - In His Life:
 - Known As His Active Righteousness!
 - And - In His Death:
 - Known As His Passive Righteousness!
 - His Righteousness:
 - Is Enough & More Than Enough:
 - For Every One With:
- The Response To Christ:
 - Of Faith And Belief!
 - “To Every One That Believeth!” (10:4)

Conclusion:

1. And This Is The Great Burden:
 - Of The Apostle Paul For His People!
 - It Was The Burden Of Christ!
 - Christ As The Cure:
 - For Their Condition:
 - Of Un-Righteousness & Self-Righteousness!
 - Christ As The Cure:
 - For Their Confusion:
 - Having “A Zeal Of God, But Not According To Knowledge!”
 - And - Christ As The Cure:
 - For Their Need Of Conversion:
 - And Salvation!
 - Even As The Apostle Peter Once Preached:
 - Acts 4:12 - “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved!”
 - 2. This Is The Burden Of Christ!
 - Not A Burden Anymore:
 - Of Sin - But A Burden:
 - For Sinners!
 - Do You Bear This Burden:
 - In Your Own Heart & Life Today?
 - “Brethren, May Our Hearts Desire And Prayer For All People Be, That They Might Be Saved!”

- * Which Burden Do You Carry Today?
- * The Burden Of Sin?
- * The Burden For Sinners? The Burden Of Christ!

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