

Dear Friends and Family,

What a beautiful name it is! Indeed the name of Jesus Christ is one to be revered and adored (Philippians 2:9). There is a popular contemporary worship song out today by this title. It is catchy, upbeat, and most likely many have heard it during worship. Did you ever take note of the second verse in that song?

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater
What could separate us now

It's true that God delights in us and in our praise (Psalm 149:1-4). But is it true that God didn't want heaven without us?

2 Peter 3:9 states: "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."

It does not say that all WILL come to repentance. Scripture teaches clearly that God is the source of our salvation (Eph. 2:8-9), but our own sin is the source of our condemnation (Romans 3:23 & 6:23).

God is perfectly complete without any of us. He graciously gave us His son to provide a way of salvation, not because He didn't want heaven without us, but simply because He chose to love us.

The first line however, being theologically askew, does not compare with the inaccuracy of the second. Jesus came down, yes, He was incarnate as a human. Completely God and completely Man.

The question in question here is whether *He brought heaven down?* And the answer is a resounding 'NO'.

Jesus came down so that we may know the Father and bring Him glory (John 15:8-12). He did not bring heaven down to us. Instead, He promised to return! Then, He will take us to heaven with Him! Jesus promised he would "go and prepare for us" (John 14:1-6).

In our study of Romans 10 this week, Paul admonishes the thinking demonstrated in the song:

But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?' (that is, to bring Christ down), or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." Romans 10:6-7

Day 1: READ Romans 10:1-4

What can we learn from Paul's desire? What should our desire and prayer be toward unbelievers?

Meditate on verses 2 and 3. What is the world trying to do with the truth of scripture and God's righteousness today?

When Paul says that Christ is the end of the law, he does not contradict Christ who said He did not come to abolish the law (Matthew 5:17). The word translated "end" means *goal*. Christ is the goal of the law for righteousness. He is the model we should follow. As He perfectly obeyed the law, so too should we strive to obey the law. Not legalistically but lovingly.

Day 2: READ Romans 9:5-13

In this section of the text, Paul is quoting from Deuteronomy 30. Take the time today to go back and read that chapter, making any correlations you can between it and Romans 10.

Paul quotes what would be a familiar Old Testament passage from Moses, then interprets it in light of Christ.

Who will ascend into heaven? The answer is simply no one. No one has the power to ascend into heaven. However, Paul interprets this, or gives the purpose of ascending by stating "that is, to bring Christ down". This is likened to Hebrews 6:4-6, where the author writes that Christ is crucified again.

Paul is saying we can't ascend into heaven to bring Christ down again and again. He came down, once to bring salvation and to glorify God. He will come again to gather us to Himself.

Of course, likewise, we cannot descend and raise Christ from the dead again.

But what does it say? What does our faith say?

God's word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart. Here Paul gives the end all conclusion to the necessity of a personal response. "Confess with your mouth and believe in your heart."

Where does belief come from? And what results from it?

How are we to confess? And what results from this?

Day 3: READ Romans 10:14-17

Paul answers some important questions in this section.

Look at each question one by one and answer them along with him.

Who sends the preacher?

What message does the preacher bring?

When they hear the message what happens?

What is Paul's warning in verse 16?

"So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

Day 4: READ Romans 10:18-21

What about those people who have never heard the good news?

Paul addresses this question directly. Using scripture (Psalm 19, Deut. 32, and Isaiah 65), Paul shows that God, in His sovereignty, ensures that all the world will hear of His salvation. This by no means should bring us to the conclusion that missions are unimportant. Rather the opposite, study verse 15. It may be you that God uses to bring His message to someone!

Paul closes this chapter by outlining the argument that Israel has no excuse to miss the Messiah. God reached out to them first, but because of their jealousy they rejected Christ.

"WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

"WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

May you study God's word diligently this week, hiding his word in your heart, and growing in your walk with him!

Bringing the Good News,

Pastor Matt

To read an archive of past Pastor's Point of View devotionals please visit

<https://mplong.wordpress.com/pastors-point-of-view/>

The Pastor's Point of View© is a weekly, subscription based, email devotional. It is a unique creation and ministry of First Baptist Church of Havelock, written by Senior Pastor Dr. Matthew Long. Therefore, The Pastor's Point of View© is a copyright publication of First Baptist Church of Havelock. You are free to copy, share, forward, and otherwise use this information as you see fit so long as credit is given to the author and ministry. You may unsubscribe to this devotional at any time by simply replying to the weekly email with the word 'STOP' in the body of the message. "May the LORD bless you and keep, may He make His face shine upon you." Numbers 6:24-25

Dr. Matthew Long

Senior Pastor

[FBC of Havelock](#)

*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us **RUN** with endurance the race that is set before us -- Hebrews 12:1*