

The Main Point: A person becomes a Christian by allying himself with Christ by hearing about him, calling on Him to save them, confessing Him, and believing in him.

Overview

1-V1-3 The Jewish people, typical of many religious people, had an enthusiasm for some connection with God. But it was _____. They directed their attention on their own _____ of getting right with God by keeping the _____.

2-V4-5 Christ has accomplished the whole _____ of the law. The purpose of the law was to teach people God's behavior of love—so people could imitate Him instead of offending him. Human kind is not able to obey _____ God's commands (V5). So Christ as a true man did it on behalf of all of us. As we _____ in him, we become righteous.

3-V6-8 This whole idea that we somehow have to find God is foolishness. To bring him down from _____ or bring him up from the place of the _____.

God is near and the message which welcomes him is on our _____ and in our _____.

4-V9 "For if you _____ with your mouth that Jesus is _____ and _____ in your heart that God _____ him from the dead, you will be _____."

5-V11-13 _____ who trusts in him will never be _____." It is "anyone" because both Jew and Gentile actually have the same God and _____ who is God of all living. The Lord generously gives his riches to _____ who _____ on him. For "_____ who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

6-V14 But _____ can people _____ on the Lord to save them unless they _____ in him? So someone has to _____ them. That someone needs to be _____.

7-V16 Although God welcomes anyone, not _____ welcomes the Good News. God and his ways are a problem for them, an interruption of their plans and pleasures.

8-V17 Yet God's word never returns empty handed. Those who reject and those who are ignorant may find themselves coming to faith in Christ by having an opportunity to _____ the Good News about _____, God's saving Son.

9-V18 The question is did the Jews (and the people of other nations) actually _____ the real message? God says "yes." The message of God's _____ has gone out to everyone and its words to all the _____. God has shown himself in the _____ (Romans 1:18-20) and in the human conscience. (Romans 2:14-16)

10-19 Another question. Do people really _____ so that they are without excuse before God? The answer is "yes." Every person knows good and evil in their conscience and they know there had to be a Creator. God's plan with the Jews was to make them _____ by _____ the Gentiles they considered _____.

11-V20 Religious folks can be so focused on their practice of religion they have devised that they miss God. Whereas people whose lives are open meet God. So God said, "I was _____ by people who were not _____ for me. I _____ myself to those who were not _____ for me."

12-V21 The religious can be very exasperating. Israel, who had it all of God, twisted it to be pretty much mostly man. God said that he opened his _____ to embrace them but instead they were _____ and _____ with me.

Word Study

• CALL • LISTEN • TO GO • MISDIRECTED • PURPOSE • CONFESS

1. V1 _____ If a person has a map but ignores its directions, he is misdirected and will end up in the wrong place. HERESY is a term used for Christian teachings that have a misdirection to them. The teaching is judged as misleading, contradictory, and harmful to a faith that has a living relationship with God.. The tricky thing about heresy is that it may be about 98% right—but is off so slightly that the driver eventually ends going off the road. The first requirement to Israel was "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength." The second requirement was "These words which I command you shall be in your heart." Deuteronomy 6:5-6. It's harder to love and do all it requires than to do some sort of obedience.

2. V4 _____ There are two purposes of the law: (1) The law which tells me how to how to live a life like God lives. This sort of obedience is forever. Jesus said, "Until heaven and earth disappear, even the smallest detail of God's law will remain." Matthew 5:18 (2) The law which kept perfectly makes a person right in God's sight. Keeping the law perfectly is absolutely impossible. The law of Moses was given so that people would from the heart at least strive to be right in God's sight. However, Jesus accomplished that purpose of the law on the cross. All people are right with God because they are joined to Jesus.

3. V8 _____ Thomas Aquinas taught that going to heaven was sort of like climbing Jack's Beanstalk. We climb up half way and when we've reached the half way point, Jesus will come down, meet us and take us the rest of the way. Not true. We don't need to bring Christ Jesus down or up. He's near. And it is not a matter of climbing or doing. It's a matter of speaking life into ourselves in the same way that God created the earth by speaking - "Let it be!!!" We do the same with different words. We say "Jesus, You are raised from the dead and You are Lord. Save me!" The ability to speak that word with faith has already been placed in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

4. V9 _____ The word in the original language is HOMO LOGEO. (homo means "same as") (logo means "word"). So to confess is to say the same word, agree with. This word was used of a person making a public, legally binding agreement or contract. The marriage vows are in a sense that same sort of confession through a signed document supplements the confession. So to confess that Jesus is Lord is to say, "I declare before God, angels, devils and mankind that Jesus is MY LORD. I am submitted to and obedient to Him. He is the Master of my life in the same way that a slave is submitted to his master—no argument or disobedience. God says of the Jews (v21), "I opened my arms to them... but they kept disobeying me and arguing with me."

5. V 13 _____ John Wimber often said that two prayers which God immediately answers are "What's wrong with me?" and "Help!" (that is calling upon the name of the Lord). Peter's words, when he was sinking beneath the waves after losing confidence that he could walk on water if he kept his eyes on Jesus, were "Help me Lord or I perish." Abraham "called on the name of the Lord." Genesis 13:4 That phrase is translated as he "worshiped" the Lord. Calling on the Lord means to be paying attention to the Lord. Being in relationship with Him. Needing his help. Loving and worshipping him. This

is better than walking the straight and narrow. God can deal with sin – but he can't deal with a person who ignores him.

6. V16 _____ or hear. Hear in the Scripture means not only that you audibly heard what the other person said but that you responded to what they said. Some hearing is spoken of as "going in one ear and out the other." Biblical hearing implies obedience to what is heard.

What does this Scripture say to you?
