

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Romans 10: 9-13

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. We'll continue to read Romans Chapter 10 and today we will read verses 9 to 13.

Paul received revelation from the Holy Spirit and reinterpreted the Pentateuch in the light of the New Testament. In fact, Deuteronomy 30:11–14 was Moses speaking prophetically. The Israelites spent 1,500 years coming to realize that they were utterly unable to keep the whole law. When the time was fulfilled, God sent His Son from heaven to earth to become the Lamb of atonement, bearing the punishment for the sins of mankind. Then God raised Christ from the dead, breaking the power of Hades, and He ascended into heaven so that all who believe in Christ might be justified by God. This is the righteousness which is by faith.

Christ was the Word who existed in the beginning, and later the Word became flesh and was crucified on the cross. He then rose again and ascended to heaven, sending the Holy Spirit to dwell within the believers, becoming the living word—the word of supply, of help, and of timely provision. This word is not far from us; it is in our mouth and in our heart. The apostles were sent by God to proclaim this word of faith. The apostolic ministry has been passed down from generation to generation, and even today, every believer continues the apostles' commission by proclaiming this gospel of faith.

Verse 9: “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

This is a verse that every believer should keep firmly in mind and always be ready to share with those whom God brings near to them. How can a person be saved? It

is simple—by believing in the heart and confessing with the mouth. And what does one believe in the heart? It is believing that God has raised Christ from the dead.

This simple truth includes two parts. The first part is that Christ died for humanity, bearing the sins of mankind and paying the full price for sin so that those who believe in Him may have their sins forgiven. Therefore, the first step in preaching the gospel is to help people recognize that they are sinners and that the wages of sin is death. Now that Christ has already paid the price of death on their behalf, anyone who believes in Him can receive redemption and the forgiveness of sins.

The second part is that Christ rose from the dead, meaning that His death fully satisfied God's righteous requirement; therefore, God raised Him from the dead. Whoever believes in Christ will be justified by God. Thus, the second step in preaching the gospel is to tell people that once they believe in Christ, God will declare them righteous—not because of their own deeds, but because Christ Himself becomes their righteousness. When a person believes in the heart that God raised Christ from the dead, the next step is to confess with the mouth that Jesus is Lord. The third step, then, is the open confession—the public testimony before others that Jesus is the Savior of one's life.

Generally speaking, baptism is the best testimony. In the midst of the congratulations of fellow believers, one publicly bears witness before all creation—not only before visible witnesses such as fellow saints, relatives, and friends, but also before the spiritual realm. The angels and heavenly hosts rejoice together, while at the same time, this act solemnly declares to Satan and his followers that the person has been delivered from the power of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God's beloved Son.

Mark 16:16 says, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved." Faith is inward—believing in the heart that God raised Christ from the dead—while baptism is the outward testimony, a public confession. Therefore, the Gospel of Mark declares that "he who believes and is baptized will be saved." Preaching the gospel is the commission that God has entrusted to every Christian; we must always remember this verse and use it to share the gospel.

Whether a person can receive grace and be saved often depends on timing. God causes all things to work together for good and sends someone in need of the gospel to cross our path. God has already begun His work—we simply need to do our part by following three steps: Help the person realize that they are a sinner and that Jesus Christ died for them on the cross. Once they believe, their sins will be forgiven. Help them understand that Christ has risen from the dead, and by believing in Him, they are justified by God. Lead them to confess with their mouth, willingly receiving Christ as their Savior for life. Then, guide them in a prayer of decision and rejoice with them that they have been saved.

The first act of obedience after salvation is baptism. Most churches provide baptismal classes to help new believers understand the spiritual meaning of baptism more clearly. Dear brothers and sisters, this is the essential equipping and responsibility of every believer. Usually, when God sends a “son of peace” into our lives, it means God has already begun His work in that person’s heart. We simply need to fulfill our duty to help them become a Christian. The most regrettable thing is to hesitate or remain silent at such a crucial moment—seeking someone more experienced to take over instead. If we miss this key opportunity, the person’s inner stirring may fade away, and they may become our spiritual debt—because we owe them the debt of the gospel. May every believer remember this verse well and learn to use it to help those around them who need the good news of salvation.

Verse 10: “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

To believe in the heart means to believe that God has raised Christ from the dead. This faith is directed toward God—believing that He has already accepted Jesus’ redemptive work on the cross, and that He raised Jesus from the dead, exalted Him to heaven, and seated Him at His right hand. This resurrection proves that Jesus Christ has fully satisfied the righteous requirements of God, so that God can now declare us righteous. Next comes confession with the mouth. The Greek word for “confess” is *homologeō*, which is formed from two parts: *homo*, meaning “together,”

and logeo, the verb form of logos, meaning “word.” Literally, it means “to speak together,” or “to speak in agreement,” and by extension, “to testify.” This shows that when a person hears the word of the gospel and it resonates within them, the word of life—like a seed—finds a home in their heart, takes root, and begins to grow. Then, with the mouth, that person can confess the peace and joy that have been birthed within. The heart and the mouth together bear witness to this new life. Therefore, “with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Verse 11: “For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

Here, Paul quotes Isaiah 28:16. In Romans 9:33, Paul also quotes Isaiah 28:16, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” In Romans 9:33, Paul emphasizes that Christ is the Rock who protects those who trust in Him. But in this verse, Paul emphasizes that those who believe must be willing to openly bear witness to their faith, because those who truly trust in the Lord will not feel ashamed of their faith, nor will they shrink back from testifying to others.

Some believers may fear that their spiritual life is immature and that they might fail to live as a proper Christian should, thus bringing shame to the Lord. In fact, there is no need to worry about this. As long as we are willing to entrust our whole life into the Lord’s hands, He will take full responsibility for us. Even if we sometimes stumble, the Lord is able to renew our strength, enabling us to mount up with wings like eagles. For those who trust in Him will not be put to shame.

Verse 12: “For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.”

Although the Jews and the Greeks differ in race and cultural background, when it comes to receiving Christ as their lifelong Savior, they are completely the same.

Once a person receives grace and is saved, he gains the same identity and status, for all people share one Lord. The salvation of Jesus Christ is for all nations; whoever believes in Jesus Christ becomes a child of God and also a brother or sister of Christ. Therefore, within the church there is no hierarchy, no distinction between rich and poor, noble and lowly, nor any division by race or culture. All are brothers and sisters, all are members of one family in Christ, and God abundantly blesses all who call upon His name.

The word “call” in Greek is epikaleo, which is composed of two parts: epi, meaning “upon,” and kaleo, meaning “call.” Together, epikaleo means “to call upon.” Since Christ is the Lord of all, whenever we encounter distress, as long as we call upon the Lord, He will abundantly bless those who call upon His name. The name of the Lord includes all that He is and all that He has done. Everything the Lord has accomplished becomes our supply, our support, and our help. The Lord is rich, and He has already prepared to provide timely help whenever needed. When we have a need, we only need to open our mouths to the Lord, and He will pour out His abundance upon us, leading us to experience and enjoy His riches, and bringing us into God’s will.

Dear brothers and sisters, Romans 9:23 says, “And that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory.” We who are called are the vessels meant to contain the riches of the Lord in every aspect. Yet the mouth of the vessel must be opened for the Lord’s riches to enter. Psalm 81:10 says, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt; open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.” As long as we open our mouths wide, the Lord will fill us abundantly.

The Lord is holy, righteous, and glorious. When our vessel is filled with all that He is, we will manifest His glory. Even when we fall into foolishness and ask for things that do not belong to us, the Lord still responds to our calling according to the Father’s will—and most often, He answers us by giving Himself to us as the answer. Therefore, we only need to open our mouths wide, and the Lord will fill us abundantly. The Lord will richly bless those who call upon Him, filling their vessels with His riches in every aspect of Himself.

Verse 13: “For ‘whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

This verse is quoted from Joel 2:32. Peter, in his message on the day of Pentecost, quoted the same passage. In Acts 2:17–21, Peter declared, “‘And it shall come to pass in the last days,’ says God, ‘That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.’”

At that time, the apostle Peter proclaimed to those who came to Jerusalem to keep the feast that a new era had come—this is the last days. The Holy Spirit has already been poured out, and whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Calling on the name of the Lord is the privilege of God’s people. From Genesis 4:26, the son of Seth, Enosh, who was the third generation of mankind, began to call on the name of the Lord.

In the Old Testament record, we see that almost all the well-known figures were recorded as having called on the name of the Lord: In Genesis 12:8, Abraham called on the name of the Lord; in Genesis 26:25, Isaac called on the name of the Lord; in Deuteronomy 4:7, Moses called on the name of God; in Judges 16:28, Samson called on the name of the Lord, asking Him to give him strength one more time so that he could topple the temple of the Philistines; in 1 Samuel 12:18, Samuel called on the name of the Lord, and He sent thunder and rain. David was the psalmist who most frequently called on the name of the Lord, and in the Psalms are recorded countless times when he called upon God’s name in his distress. In 1 Kings 18, it records the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal; Elijah called on the name of God, and God sent down fire from heaven to consume the burnt offering.

In the New Testament, the disciples of Jesus were a group of people who called on the name of the Lord. Acts 9:14 specifically records that Saul, in his zeal, received

authority from the chief priests to arrest all who called on the name of the Lord. Later, when Paul received grace and was saved, he bore witness that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Dear brothers and sisters, this is the privilege of every Christian. No matter what kind of situation we fall into, we can simply call on the name of the Lord and cry out to Him. We do not need elegant words or ornate expressions—just a simple cry for help: “Lord, save me!” It is that simple. When we call sincerely, the Lord will surely hear. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved—meaning they will be delivered from their distress.

I hope, dear saints, that this week we can truly practice this matter. In every situation we encounter in our daily life, let us learn to call on the name of the Lord and carefully observe how the Lord, according to His will, delivers us. Once we have learned to practice this well, our Christian walk will become steady and firm. For when difficulties come, we will have already learned to call on the Lord.

Let us pray together: Lord, thank You for giving us such a simple way—believing in our heart and confessing with our mouth, and we shall be saved. This is a simple path of faith. After we have received grace and salvation, You have also given us a special privilege—that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. We can bring everything before You and ask that You lead us according to Your will. Teach us also to follow the Lord’s way. Though we may be weak and stumble at first, as long as we sincerely call upon Your name, You will surely grant help. Through such practice, our faith in You will grow stronger, and we will truly learn to trust You. Lord, please bless my daily life and help me become one who constantly calls on Your name. This prayer, petition, and thanksgiving I offer in the holy name of my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!