

The Keavy Encourager

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (GW)-We encourage you, brothers and sisters, to instruct those who are not living right, cheer up those who are discouraged, help the weak, and be patient with everyone.

September 17, 2023

(For Any Corrections Or Updates To The Bulletin, Please Contact brother Mark Tabata (Call Or Text) @ 606-216-1757)

WELCOME TO THE KEAVY CHURCH OF CHRIST!

- If you are visiting with us, you are our welcomed and honored guest. We are so thankful that you came to be with us today!
- PLEASE remember to pick up one of our “Visitor Packages” before you go!
- Please also leave your name and address with us so that we can get you a “thank you” card in the mail.
- If you would like to participate in our Communion service, you will find Lord’s Supper packets in the Foyer (the area where you first enter the church building).
- If we can help you in any way, please let us know!

Sinner’s Prayer In Romans 10:9-10?

Paul wrote:

“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. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10)

The claim is often made that Romans 10:9-10 teaches that all a sinner must do to be saved is to believe in Jesus and His resurrection, confess Him as Lord, to be saved.

Let's study.

First, the ones who are instructed here in Romans to "confess" and "believe" were already baptized believers. Paul had written earlier to them:

Romans 6:3-4-Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

It is helpful to remember that when Paul addresses the Christians between Romans 9-11 (and usually through the entire Book), he addresses them with the word "you" (simply study the 163 uses of this word in Romans). In like fashion, when Paul (in Romans 9-11) speaks of unbelieving Jews (i.e., the lost), he usually uses the words "they" and "them" (cf. Romans 9:22-27, 32; 10:1-3).

With that in mind, when Paul speaks of those "confessing" with their mouths in Romans 10, who is he addressing?

Christians, of course!

This passage is not telling non-Christians how to be saved; it is reminding the Christians of their commitment when they were baptized and saved, and then goes on to tell these baptized believers (Romans 6:3-4) to keep on believing and confessing Jesus.

Second, the "believing" and "confessing" of Romans 10:9 take place at the moment one is baptized into Christ. This verse is referencing the "good confession" that a believer made at the time of baptism (cf. Acts

8:37). Indeed, the early Christians acknowledge that the actions of Romans 10:9 begin at the time of baptism.

“BAPTISMAL PROFESSION . AUGUSTINE: This condition is fulfilled at the time of baptism, when faith and profession of faith are all that is demanded for one to be baptized. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE 13. 63 AUGUSTINE : This profession of faith is the creed which you will be going over in your thoughts and repeating from memory. THE CREED 1. 64 AUGUSTINE : We who expect to reign in everlasting righteousness can only be saved from this wicked world if while for our neighbor’s salvation we profess with our lips the faith which we carry about in our heart, we exercise a pious and careful vigilance to see that this faith in us is not sullied in any point of belief by the deceitful snares of heretics. FAITH AND THE CREED 1. 65” (Thomas Oden, Ancient Christian Commentary On Scripture: Romans, 12467 (Kindle Edition); New York, N.Y.; Routledge Taylor & Francis Group)”

Third, the early Christians taught that while this “confessing” began when a person was baptized into Christ, it then was to continue on throughout the Christian life. Indeed, the present tense verbs in the Greek of Romans 10:10 demonstrate that this is the case. The Christian is thus called upon to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord, speaking of Him and His Word to a lost and dying world (cf. Romans 12:1-2). In that light, as Augustine (referenced above) reminds us, this believing and confessing are references to Christians boldly and lovingly speaking God’s Word to the lost. We see that clearly here in Romans 10, where the same ones who go forth preaching and teaching the Gospel (Romans 10:11-17) are the Christians in Romans 10:9-10 who keep on believing and confessing Jesus!

Romans 10:9-10 is not telling unsaved people to be saved by confessing and believing in Jesus: it is telling Christians who have already been saved through baptism (Romans 6:3-4) to continue believing and confessing Jesus to their lost neighbors.

There is no sinner’s prayer salvation in Scripture.

Questions For Consideration

1. How important is faith? Hebrews 11:16.

2. According to Jesus, what will happen if we refuse to confess Him before others? Matthew 10:32-33.

3. Saul of Tarsus was a man who believed in Jesus, repented of his sins, called Jesus Lord, and prayed to Him for three days and nights while he fasted in sorrow for his sins (Acts 9:1-11). Many churches teach that a sinner is saved when he prays in this fashion. What was Saul told he must do? Acts 22:16.

September Prayer List

Gary and Vanessa Fleming (surgery went well)

Joanne Martin

Larry And Sandi Tabata

Sanders Family

Laura Ann Osbourne

Eddie Craft (Cancer)

Mike Raney

Coy Gilliam

Jimmy Brooks (Tammy's cousin, cancer)

Kathy Mingus (cancer)

Anne Baker (Cancer)

Kera Smith

Jim Day (had a good report from his doctor visit!)

Cindy Thies

Josh and Holly Baker

Christine (aunt of Marlene)

Katherine Myers
Violet (Ivy's sister, heart attack, appears to be doing much better)
Rachel Greer
Paul Mattney (had a good report from his doctor visit!)
Barbara in Louisville (friend of Jewel)
Samantha Collins (Liam's Collins Biological Mother)
Modina Hill (Kenny Hill's mother)
Eli Hill Family
Randall Mitchell
Wilma (Glen's sister)
Ashley (mother of a young lady who works at Gatti's Pizza, her daughter
requested prayer for her)

Baptism News!

Last Friday (September 8, 2023), Randal Ross Shepherd was baptized into Christ at Keavy. We welcome Randal to our church family! There is a card in the foyer for our new brother. Please take a moment and sign it and welcome him to the Lord's church!

Request For Help With Food

We are looking for volunteers from our church family for help providing food. Could you help occasionally with providing food for our shut in members? If so, please contact brother Mark.

Free Bible Study Courses Through The Mail Available

Would you enjoy some free Bible studies through the mail? Or do you know someone who would enjoy them? Topics include: The Plan Of Salvation; The New Testament Church; Spiritual Warfare; Where The Different Churches Came From; Christianity Versus Paganism; The Alleged "Lost Books" Of The Bible; Proof That The Bible Is The Word Of God; The Bible And UFOs. We have been blessed to sign up three people already in the community on these Bible studies. If you, or

anyone you know, would be interested, please share names and mailing addresses with brother Mark.

Bible Class And Sermon Notes