

Responding to Sovereign Grace

Romans 9:30–10:21

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Church Bibles

Misguided Zeal

(9:30–10:4)

“Jesus Christ came to blind those who saw clearly, and to give sight to the blind; to heal the sick, and leave the healthy to die; to call to repentance and to justify sinners, and to leave the righteous in their sins; to fill the needy, and leave the rich empty.”

–Blaise Pascal

“We all automatically gravitate toward the assumption that we are justified by our level of sanctification ... We start each day with our personal security resting not on the accepting love of God and the sacrifice of Christ but on our present feelings or recent achievements in religion. Since these arguments will not quiet the human conscience, we are inevitably moved ... to a self-righteousness which falsifies the record to achieve a sense of peace.”

–Richard Lovelace

“How does the zeal of the flesh reveal itself? Because it’s driven by law, it treats people with law. It does not rejoice over them but finds fault, jumps to conclusions, accuses, is argumentative, doesn’t listen, gloats when a brother is down, and loves to come out on top. This zeal isn’t for God. It’s for Self. And it’s powerful. It diminishes the future of the church by robbing everyone of beautiful things that might have been.”

—Ray Ortlund

Over-Complicating the Simple (10:5-15)

“Confessing Jesus as Lord meant accepting he is God,
and that the Lord is not just one, but three-in-one.”

–Phil Moore

“A herald was, in a sense, a living newspaper; heralds were a major means of transmitting news by making announcements in the marketplace and city streets. So the word ‘preach’ does not refer only to what today are called ‘sermons.’ Heralds operated in the streets.”

–Tim Keller

Rejecting Beauty (10:16-21)

“Let me warn all careless members of churches to beware lest they trifle their souls into hell. You live on year after year as if there was no battle to be fought with sin, the world, and the devil. You pass through life a smiling, laughing, gentleman-like or lady-like person and behave as if there was no devil, no heaven and no hell. Oh, careless Churchman ... or careless Episcopalian, or careless Presbyterian, careless Independent, careless Baptist, awake to see eternal realities in their true light! Awake and put on the armor of God! Awake and fight hard for life! Tremble, tremble and repent.”

– J.C. Ryle

A Confession of Personal Faith

I confess that Jesus is Lord.

I confess that Jesus shares the name and nature, the holiness, the authority, power, majesty and eternality of the one and only true God.

I confess that Jesus died and was raised, opening heaven up to unworthy sinners. I am such a sinner, and I gladly embrace his atonement for me.

I confess that Jesus rightfully owns me,
every part of me,
every moment of my time,
every dollar in my possession,
every opportunity granted me,
every responsibility thrust upon me,
every hope I cherish,
every person whom I love and treasure.

I am personal property of the Lord Jesus Christ. He deserves my allegiance, loyalty and trust twenty-four hours a day, in all places, in all aspects of my life, both public and private.

He is worthy of my obedience.

He is worthy of my utmost.

He is worthy of my very blood.

I confess that Jesus is Lord.