

**OLD-TIME RELIGION**  
12 Fervent, Soul-Winning Sermons

By

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**CHAPTER TEN**

**WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL**

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Stenographically reported for The Sword of the Lord).

In the tenth chapter of Romans is our Scripture tonight.

I want to read a few verses, the first thirteen verses of the tenth chapter of the book of Romans.

**"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them. But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*;) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."**

Now people ask me, 'Is confession necessary for salvation?' I say it is in this way. The Lord said in the Scripture that if a man has really believed on the Lord, he will confess it: **'Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.'**

Brother, you let the love of GOD come into your heart and I would like to see you keep from confessing Him. You are going to tell it. **"For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich, unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

And that last verse is our text: "**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"

## **I. All Need a Saviour Because All Have Sinned**

There is one thing that every person in this world needs and that is salvation. Now, there are many things that you might need that I would not need, and many things that you do not need that I need. But there is one thing that every person on earth needs and that is salvation.

It makes no difference how good a person may be, nor how moral, nor how clean; that person needs salvation.

For the Scripture says plainly that "**all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.**" Why do people try to avoid the question and try to convince themselves that they can get to Heaven without salvation, when every one of them knows that he has sinned? Even if GOD had not said so, they know it just the same. Where is the person of normal mind who is not conscious of the fact that he is a sinner? Even little children know it. Their own little hearts tell them.

Even the most savage heathen and the most ignorant Hottentot in Africa - something tells them in their hearts that something has separated them from GOD. That is why they make their pilgrimages; that is why they make their sacrifices; that is why many of them go to the extent of making burnt-offerings of their own children. Something deep down in their hearts has told them that sin has separated them from their GOD. So we all need to be saved because we have all sinned.

A person asked me once, "Why do you keep on saying, '**Ye must be born again?**' "

I said, "Well, I will give you two reasons. D. L. Moody said, 'The reason I keep repeating, "**Ye must be born again,**" is because "**Ye must be born again.**"' The second reason is, GOD said so and that settles it. There is no argument about it. The Lord JESUS CHRIST said, '**Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**' And if words can express a thought clearly and concisely, nobody can mistake what JESUS meant when He said, '**Ye must be born again.**'"

Talk about your morality. What have you to commend you to GOD? You are a sinner and know it. I have done my utmost all my life to live a clean life. I was taught by old-fashioned parents that their boys ought to be as pure as their sister, and when I led my wife to the altar I was nearly twenty-six years of age, and I was just as clean morally as she, as clean as my precious mother. But after saying all that, I look into my life and I find there is plenty of sin there. There is not one of us who can boast about his morality.

Who would be willing to sit here and have his life put on a screen and let this congregation see it all, see the innermost thoughts and secrets of his heart and life? You could not stand it. We have nothing to commend us to GOD.

No wonder Isaiah said, "**We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags**" (Isaiah 64:6).

No, we had just as well admit it. We are so deeply conscious of it. If we are honest, we will admit that we need a Saviour for our sins. And, bless GOD, we have one. Listen to the Word of GOD, "**Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins**" (Matthew 1:21).

Oh, how I thank GOD for JESUS!

## **II. You Need to Be Saved Because Death Is Certain**

Not only do we need a Saviour because we have all sinned, but we need to be saved because we are all going to die one of these days. I know that people do not like to think about death. You know, we try to camouflage death, try to cover it up.

The undertaker does everything in his power to try to camouflage it. He takes the body of the dead, paints it up, smoothes out the wrinkles, fixes the hair, dresses up the corpse, paints the lips, puts rouge on the cheeks, and people come by and say, "She looks as natural as life itself." But, brother, she is dead.

Then you go out to the cemetery - they do not do as they used to do when I was a boy, when the neighbors would bring the casket out to the old country graveyard in the wagon, then take it out and lower it down into the ground; take shovels and, while all stood around, shovel the dirt in onto the top of the box. I think it is a pretty good thing sometimes to do that. Oh, we try to cover it up, to camouflage it; but why not bring home to the hearts of the people the reality of the thing which we cannot escape! We are going to have to face it.

As I stood there in the old country church graveyard and saw men shoveling dirt from a new-made mound and heard it rumbling on the box in the bottom, I was just a little country boy, but something gripped my heart about the awfulness of death. I tell you, we are going to have to face it. And it is a terrible thing to think about facing death without CHRIST, without hope; dying in your sins, a Christless death.

When I was in a meeting in north Texas a man came down the aisle to confess the Lord. He was pale and weak. He looked almost like one who had come from the dead.

When he came down to make his confession of CHRIST, he said, "May I say a word?"

I told him he might. He turned to that crowd of people and said, "You all know me. I was born and reared in this community." (He was a man then past forty years of age). He said, "All these years you know that I have been depending upon my morality and my good works and my character. If I do say it, I call you to witness who have known me from childhood, I have lived an upright life, I have been honest; I have paid my debts and treated people right, and I have been living the best I knew how by the Golden Rule. I have told you, many of you, that that was my religion and that it was going to get me to Heaven. Listen, folks, about three weeks ago the doctor stood by my bedside, looked into my face and said, 'Jim Ragsdale, is your house in order?'"

I said, 'What do you mean, doctor?'

He said, 'I mean, Jim Ragsdale, that you are going to die today. Are you ready to meet GOD?'

When that doctor told me that, I turned my face to the wall and the lights went out. Everything went black. Everything went as dark as midnight and I reached out in that awful darkness for something to hold on to, and there wasn't a thing."

He said that in that awful hour he cried to GOD and said, "O GOD, if you will hear me and give me another chance, I will confess CHRIST before the world." And he said, "GOD heard my cry, and here I am to make good my promise."

And then he said, "Listen, folks, morality may do to live by, but I want to tell you that when you turn your face toward the wall and the lights go out and you face that awful darkness and reach out for something to hold on to, you will realize then that you need JESUS, and that nothing else will do."

Hear me! You are coming to the end some day. You need; salvation. You need JESUS.

### **III. You Need Salvation Because You Must Face GOD**

Then we need salvation because every one of us is going to have to meet GOD face to face.

When you stand before GOD, you are going to be just as much alone, my brother, as if you were the only person that ever lived on the earth. It is going to be an individual matter. It is not going to be a "crowd" proposition then.

You may lose yourself in the crowd now: you may be swept on by the crowd now; you may hide yourself behind the hypocrite now, but brother, when you face GOD you face Him as a lone soul.

You know, that is a serious thing to think about:

- facing the GOD that you have shut out of your life;
- facing the GOD that you have refused to bow the knee to;
- facing the GOD that you have lived in rebellion against;
- facing the GOD whose name you have taken in vain with your lips;
- facing GOD to give an account of every idle word that you spoke;
- facing the awful wrath of GOD which will devour the adversaries.

You are going to have to meet GOD.

I was called to a home in Texas when I was a pastor, where an old father, seventy-six years of age, had died suddenly during the night. He was well and healthy the night before. He was living with his daughter, had eaten a hearty supper and gone to bed. And in the night he went to sleep never to wake up.

I was sitting on the porch talking to the four sons. I remarked that the way their father went was a wonderful way to finish life's journey. For seventy-six years he fought a good fight for the Lord and had been a wonderful Christian, and then to just lie down and go to sleep and wake up in glory!

The youngest son looked at me startled and, with a look of horror in his eyes, he said, "I hope to GOD I don't go that way."

I said, "Why, Red?"

And he said, "Simply because I would like to have a little warning; I would like to know when my time has come. There are some things I would like to put in order."

I said, "Red, no man in this world can afford to live one single day without his house in order. For GOD is under no obligation to give you any warning. GOD has been fair with you. GOD has told you the truth. He has given you warning after warning all your life to get ready. He is under no obligation to give you time to get ready. And you may have to meet GOD without a moment's notice."

What about it? Many a person has gone out to meet GOD without a moment's notice.

One Sunday morning in Little Rock, Arkansas, a young man came to teach a class, a young men's class in that Sunday School. He said to that group of young men that morning, "Say, boys, we are not working tomorrow. What do you say that we all go fishing? I have a trailer and plenty of camping outfit, with fishing tackle. Let's go down to the lake tomorrow and have a big time. We will take our bathing suits along and stay on the lake all day and fish and swim."

Next morning early they loaded that trailer and went over to Hot Springs to Lake Catherine. All day long they fished and swam and had a big time. While getting supper ready late in the evening some of the boys said, "Warren, we are going to the little store to get a coke."

They went - they still had on their bathing suits. They walked down the shore to the little store and lingered awhile.

Soon a young man came along in a big motor boat. He was passing, going by the island where they were camped and asked the boys if they wanted to hop in and ride. Down the lake they went. When they got close to the island the driver of the boat said, "I had better not go any nearer as the water may be shallow."

The boys said, "We can all swim and we've got on bathing suits."

So out in the water they went, the three of them. But one of the boys did not come up. The other two boys swam around looking for him. After awhile they saw him down underneath the water. One of the boys dived down and got the drowning boy by the hair. When he got him up near the surface the boy was struggling so that he had to let him go.

Then both boys dived down and did their dead level best bring him out, but they finally had to let him go.

They swam on to the island to tell the story.

A call came in to Little Rock that this young man had drowned in the lake. They fished the body out and I held his funeral. Those two boys who tried so desperately to rescue him were both unsaved young men. This boy who went down was a Christian. After the funeral I stood in the front of the funeral home with one of these boys on either side. One was a great big tall blond and the other a little brunet. I said to the big tall fellow, "Do you know what I have been thinking about ever since I got word about Bill going down in the lake?"

He said, "I guess I have been thinking about the same thing, Brother Hankins. I have been thinking about how easily it might have been me instead of Bill. If it had, I would be in Hell, and you could not have said about me today what you said about Bill."

I said, "Well, what are you going to do about it?"

He said, "I am going to get right with GOD, that is what I am going to do. Right here and now I am going to give my heart to CHRIST, And when He calls, then I will be ready."

I turned to the other boy and said, "What are you going to do about it?"

He said, "I settled it while you were preaching Bill's funeral."

One of them wrote a friend these words from a battlefield, "I do not know when my number may come up; it looks like it might come up any day; but if it does, you can know you will meet me in Heaven."

Oh, friend, you need GOD! You need salvation. That is what men need.

#### **IV. The Only Way to Settle Where You Will Spend Eternity**

And you need salvation because it is the only thing that determines where you are going to spend eternity. Nobody will ever stand before GOD in peace unless he is Born Again. So it is the one thing and the only thing that determines where you will spend eternity.

Don't let the Devil make you think it is hard to be saved. It is easy to be saved. That is one of the Devil's lies. The Devil tells you it is hard to be saved because he would like to get you confused. And if he gets you to thinking it is a hard thing, then you may never try it. The Devil will not only tell you that; he will tell you that it is hard to live a Christian life.

Now the Devil is a liar. My Bible says, "**The way of transgressors is hard.**" The Devil says the way of a Christian is hard. You know, some of us Christians sometimes slander the Lord in our testimony by getting up and saying what a hard time it has been, living for the Lord. Brother, I

am having the best time I have had in my life, serving the Lord. You talk about joy; I did not know what it was to be happy until I cut loose for the Lord. No, the service of the Lord is happy. His yoke is easy, and it is pleasant and glorious. The way of the transgressor is the hard way.

I will never forget some years ago when they executed the archcriminal, Gerald Chapman.

Many of you will remember about him. He was then the most notorious criminal in the United States. It came out in the Associated Press that, as they led him to the electric chair, the warden said that as that man made his death march that night, he heard him repeating something over and over to himself. He could not understand it but stepped up closer where he could catch what he was saying. As he was making his death march to the electric chair that criminal was saying, **"The way of the transgressor is hard! The way of the transgressor is hard!"**

No, it is not hard to be saved. It is not hard to live for CHRIST either. It is wonderful.

And it is easy to be saved. If GOD loved you enough to give CHRIST to die for you, don't you know He wants to save you more than anything on earth? Then is GOD going to make it hard for you to be saved? Why, no! Listen to the text: **"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."** Paul said, **"Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above)."** Why, it is not something difficult! It is not something high and difficult to attain and to reach. And do not say, **"Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)"** It is not something that is hard. It is not something deep and mysterious which you cannot understand.

He said, **"The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart."**

What? Yes, you speak the word yourself that decides your salvation. It is right in your mouth. What is it? **"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation . . . For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"** (Romans 10:9, 10, 13).

In a revival meeting out in west Texas there was a man in his forties. He was under deep conviction and had been for several days and nights. He would come with his wife every night to the service. I tried to win him to the Lord. I talked to him, prayed with him, and did everything I knew to do. I came to my last night of the meeting. Standing there he said, "I want to be saved more than anything in the world but I am afraid I do not have faith enough."

I said, "GOD's Word says, **'If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.'** Do you believe GOD raised CHRIST from the dead?"

He said, "I certainly do."

I said, "That is faith enough to save anybody in the world if you act on it."

He said, "How can you act on it?"

"Why," I said, "it tells you right there. Confess with your mouth; believe in your heart; believe that CHRIST died for your sins, and that GOD raised CHRIST from the dead. If CHRIST had not been what He claimed to be, GOD would have left Him in the tomb to rot. The fact that GOD raised CHRIST from the dead means He was GOD's Son; that He was what He claimed to be; that He did come to die for our sins; that He told men the truth; that He is able to save. If you believe CHRIST was raised from the dead, then you must believe on this other."

So I said, "If you believe Jesus Christ arose from the dead, that is faith enough to save anybody in the world if he will act on it. You act on it by confessing Him with your mouth as your own personal Saviour."

This man saw it and said, "I will do it. And I'm saved too."

Don't make something hard out of it.

Just three or four years ago I saw a gray-haired man in my congregation in Little Rock. I saw him wipe the tears away as I preached that morning. Yet he did not come. Back at the door I was watching for him when he came along. I stopped him and asked about his soul and he said he was lost. I said, "Are you going away lost?"

He said, "I am afraid so. But I want to be saved."

I said, "Wait a minute. Just reason with me a few minutes, will you? Man, do you believe GOD loves you?"

"I certainly do."

"Do you believe CHRIST loves you? Do you believe CHRIST died to save sinners?"

"Yes, I do."

"Do you believe He is able to do it?"

"Yes, I do."

I said, "All right, let's reason a little bit. If GOD loves the sinner, He wants to save him; if CHRIST loves the sinner enough to die for him, certainly He wants to save him. Now, if both CHRIST and GOD want to save him, and CHRIST is able to save him, then what stands between a soul and salvation? Nothing but the sinner's consent."

He saw it and was saved on the spot. That is what GOD wants; that is all He needs. He does not need your help. He is able to do it. **"He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him"** (Hebrews 4:25).

He does not need your works. He does not need your character to help save you.

Come just as you are - sin and all. All He has ever waited on is your consent. And when you say one eternal "yes" in your heart to GOD, that minute you are a child of GOD.

**"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."** He simply means by that, if you will ask for salvation with a sincere heart, He will give it. Brother, if it is not worth asking for, it is not worth having.

**"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened"** (Matthew 7:7,8).

It is as simple as trusting your own mother to do what she said she would do. Faith is just taking GOD at His word. That is all. It is not something mysterious; it is something we exercise everyday. **"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

~ end of chapter 10 ~

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