



FOR THE WEEK OF AUG 3

WEEKLY WORD

Read Romans 10:5-15

You don't want to get into a discussion of differing viewpoints with Paul, a.k.a., an argument. He LOVES to drive his point home, and that, he is still doing in our text for this week concerning our freedom from the effects of the law. It's good to keep in mind that Paul was, at one time, a Pharisee himself, well versed in matters of the law. He is doing his best (and it's pretty darn good!) to offer his fellow Jews in Rome the reasons that following Jesus, welcoming Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah changes and fulfills what they already knew so well. This week's read isn't particularly easy to read at first glance. This may be a good time to check a few versions...perhaps THE MESSAGE and THE CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH versions.

WEEKLY CHEW

Please wrestle with these questions during the week and feel free to offer your thoughts or questions on our LIVING WATERS LUTHERAN CHURCH SR WEEKLY WALK page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/251008952628293/>.

1. Paul refers to the writings of Moses, which would have been the law and lawcodes given from God on Sinai. Paul refers to Leviticus, 18:5 in verse 5. Over time people started to see these laws as ways to keep God happy and ways to get in good favor with God. Do you ever catch yourself still trying to earn God's favor? What are some things you do as a way to rack up points with God?
2. Compare a life of following lawcodes and trying to earn God's favor to simply confessing "*...with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believing in your heart that God raised him from the dead.*" In what ways might you experience a unique freedom and how might that be known and shown in your life?
3. As stated above, Paul "argues" on quite a while, many chapters, hammering home the same concept. Why is it so much easier for us to gravitate toward the *works righteousness* model for salvation? How does the Gospel run contrary to the world? What are the implications for followers of Jesus?
4. Paul tells us that "there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him." He doesn't exactly say he is generous to all, period, but "...all who call on him." So what do you think happens to the many people who don't choose to or have an opportunity to call on him?


5. Paul ends this section with a challenge. We are not only recipients of the seed of God's word, but also sowers. What is your passion for sowing that seed of letting others know about a new life in Christ? What are some ways of doing that without getting preachy?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Since Paul leaves us with a challenge, let's take him up on it. What is one thing you can do this week to welcome or invite someone to know what you know and experience in following Jesus?

PRA YER

God of Grace. Thank you for the sheer gift of being able to confess with our lips and believe in our hearts that you have saved us and have us as your own. May the light of your love and grace shine through us that others may come to know and confess your presence in their lives as well. Amen.



**“... if you confess with your lips
that Jesus is Lord and believe in
your heart that God raised him
from the dead, you will be saved.”**

(Romans 10:9 NRSV)