

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

<sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. <sup>13</sup> For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” <sup>14</sup> How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup> And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!” <sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the Gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” <sup>17</sup> So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. <sup>18</sup> But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: “Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.”

Romans 10:11-18 A Epiphany 1-7-18 Psalm 78:1-7 John 6:28-40 Psalm 91 Resp. Psalm: 146  
Hymns: 130, 775, 360, 15

## **JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD**

- 1. Everyone who believes in Jesus is saved**
- 2. We believe in Jesus through His Word**

Dear fellow believers in Christ,

We just celebrated Christmas. Along with the fun and enjoyment we had, our real Christmas joy was in celebrating the birth of our Savior. Thank God that we know what Christmas is all about. Thank God that we know who Jesus Christ is – the Son of God and Savior of the world. In His Word this morning God tells everyone how they can know who Jesus is, and knowing Jesus, have eternal salvation!

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Paul begins our text, “*For the Scripture says....*” The only way anyone can know the truth about Jesus Christ is through the Bible. “*For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’*” This is a quote of Isaiah 28:16 which refers to the “*precious cornerstone.*” The Bible explains in other verses that this is a reference to Jesus (Mt. 21:42; Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:6). The only way we can truly understand Jesus is by faith, through His Word.

We’re told that by faith in Jesus we “*will not be put to shame.*” “[*Being*] *put to shame*” in the original text refers to someone who has put his faith in something that turns out to be empty. Paul says in the fifth chapter of Romans, “*... through our Lord Jesus Christ ... we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.... Hope does not disappoint*” (vv. 1b-2, 5a). One commentator says:

One thing is certain in this uncertain world. Everyone must face death and the accounting at the judgment of God. Just thinking about death and especially about the Day of Judgment produces anxiety in a great many people. But those who trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior have no need for concern. They will not suffer shame. Their hope in Jesus will not be disappointed. They can be certain that they will receive the promised inheritance of heaven. (Sermon Studies on the Epistles, series B, p. 322, NPH, © 1993)

*“Whoever believes in Jesus will not be put to shame.”* Everyone who trusts in Jesus for salvation is saved. Jesus says, *“Truly, truly I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life”* (Jn. 6:47).

*“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord overall is rich to all who call upon him. For ‘whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.’”* Back when Paul wrote those words it hadn’t been that long since the Jews were God’s chosen people. Once Jesus came God’s chosen people are from “all” nations: *“the... Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.”* It’s not who we are that that saves us. It’s whom we believe in that saves us: Jesus! *“For ‘whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”* We “[call] on the name of the Lord;” that is, by faith we call Jesus our Savior.

*“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* When we hear the name of someone we know, we think of that person. *“The name”* of Jesus refers to everything the Bible tells us about Him. Saving faith isn’t believing in Jesus Christ as a way of salvation. Saving faith is believing in Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation. Peter says about Jesus, *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”* (Ac. 4:12). Saving faith isn’t believing that Jesus was a good person and a prophet who taught things about God. Saving faith is believing in Jesus as the Son of God who gave His life on the cross as the Savior of the world. John the Baptist said about Jesus, *“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”* (Jn. 1:29).

*“The Lord... is rich to all who call upon Him.”* Again one commentator says, “Here the inexhaustible grace of God is emphasized. No matter how many sinners call on Him for mercy, and no matter how great their sins, God’s grace is always greater” (Sermon Studies on the Epistles, series A, p. 392, NPH, © 1986). The Bible says, *“Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more”* (Ro. 5:20 b). For Jesus’ sake God forgives every sin of every sinner who comes to Him.

Paul says that *“the same Lord”* (Jesus) *“over all is rich to all who call upon Him.”* Paul then quotes the Old Testament Prophet Joel: *“Whoever calls on the name of the LORD”* (Jehovah) *“shall be saved.”* Paul here equates the Lord Jesus with Jehovah, the LORD. Jesus Christ is the Jehovah of the Old Testament! (Joel 2:32)

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Some of the Jews challenged Jesus to do some miracle that would prove to them that He's the Son of God (Jn. 2:28; 6:30). Jesus performed countless miracles, even raising the dead back to life. Many people believed Jesus was a great miracle worker. But many of them did not believe in Jesus as the Son of God and their Savior from sin. Many people try to understand Jesus using their reason. The Bible warns us that *"the sinful mind is hostile to God"* (Ro. 8:7a, NIV). We can't understand Jesus and believe in Him by what we see and what we think.

*"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!'"* The only way to know the truth about Jesus and believe in Him is by hearing what God's Word – the Bible – says about Him. One way we hear God's Word is through a "preacher" – a pastor. We're told, *"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Gospel."* Pastors' feet are called "beautiful" because they 'carry' the pastors who spread the Gospel. Through the Gospel people can hear about Jesus, believe in Him, and be saved.

Paul calls the Gospel *"the Gospel of peace."* Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:19, *"God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself"* (making peace between the world and Himself through Jesus), *"not counting their sins against them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation."* In the Gospel we learn that because Jesus paid for all of our sins on the cross God isn't angry with us, but loves us and forgives us. *"The Gospel of peace"* gives us sinners "peace" with God.

Our text calls the Gospel *"glad tidings of good things."* "Gospel" in the original is literally "good news." On the first Christmas the angel told the shepherds, *"I bring you good tidings"* (literally, *"I preach the Gospel – the Good News – to you"*) *"of great joy which will be to all people. For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"* (Lk. 2:10b-11). The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the best news we can ever hear! Paul says in the first chapter of Romans, *"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes"* (v. 16).

*"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."* "Faith" in the original is literally *"the faith"* – the kind of faith we've been hearing about in our text. This is *"the faith"* God gives us through His Word, *"the faith"* that trusts in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. *"The faith"* God gives us through His Word is described in Hebrews 11:1, *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen"* (NASB). By *"the faith"* God gives us through His Word we know that the Bible is God's Word, and that everything the Bible says is true. By *"the faith"* God gives us through His Word we know that Jesus Christ is the Savior of

the world whose death and resurrection have taken all of our sins away, and guaranteed eternal life for us in heaven.

*“But they have not all obeyed”* (from the original: *“submitted to”*) *“the Gospel.”* Sadly, many people don’t want to hear that they are sinners, and refuse to believe that Jesus died on the cross to save them from their sins.

*“Have they not heard? Yes indeed: ‘Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.’”* Although many reject the Gospel, that doesn’t stop God from seeing to it that the Gospel keeps on spreading all over the world. The Bible says, *“This Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations”* (Mt. 24:14a). *“God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Tim. 2:3-4).

At Christmas time we celebrated Jesus’ birth. Now, during the season of Epiphany, we see who Jesus is. We can’t see Jesus with our eyes; not yet. We can’t understand Jesus using our reason. We see who Jesus is and know Him and believe in Him through His Word, and we’re saved!  
**JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.** Amen.