

Romans 10—Ascending and Descending

One of the great challenges of preparing a sermon is working out what to leave in and what to take out. The wrestle becomes particularly difficult when a part of the scripture you're examining that week has some complex inner workings. Last weekend in Romans 10 was one of those moments. And unfortunately, being pressed for time, I personally felt like I didn't articulate the inner workings of the passage clearly enough. So here's my second attempt at explaining what's going on in Romans 10:6-8 in particular.

Romans 10:5-13 is basically an exposition of Romans 10:4—how Jesus is the 'end/goal/fulfilment of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes'.

First Paul begins in 10:5 (quoting from Leviticus 18:5) to establish what was probably considered the normal way of reading the Law: that it was to be done by works. God said it, I believe it, I carry it out obediently. However Paul then goes on to quote from Deuteronomy 30:12-14 to argue that the original Leviticus quote should be read more in line with this idea: that the Law as to be fulfilled by faith, not by works.

In the original context Moses was laying before Israel the choice between 'life and death' - obedience and life, or disobedience and death. In Deuteronomy 30:12-14 he argues that the ability to fulfil the Law's commands is not beyond their reach. It is not as though they need a superhuman faith or strength to ascend into heaven or go beyond the chaotic sea (Paul requotes this as 'descend in to the grave') to be able to do it. Rather, God has given them the commands—it is in their mouths and hearts, so they can fulfil them.

Paul takes these lines (Romans 10:6-8) and gives us the theological interpretation of them now we have faith through Jesus. There he argues the same principle: one does not require superhuman feats of spirituality to go to heaven (in order to bring Jesus to earth in his first incarnation), nor descend into the grave (in order to raise Jesus from the dead). Think about that—it would take an extraordinary person on such a high spiritual plane to go and give Jesus his marching orders!

Rather, that word, which is the message of the gospel that we trust by faith, is near you—in your mouth and in your heart. You need to simply believe and act in faith—and if you do that you will be saved (Romans 10:9-13).

So Paul is making that argument that Moses preached the same message within the Law itself: that it wasn't about your efforts/works, but about trusting and having faith. Trusting and having faith would lead you to be saved—and would lead you to seeing that Jesus was the fulfilment of all of God's promise. But the Jews didn't see this, they rebelled against this message, and have presently missed out on being saved.

That leaves us with a big challenge—how are we living out our faith? Are we living it out as though it depended all on our effort and works? Or are we living it out on the solid foundation of faith? Where are you ultimately putting your hope and trust in—yourself, or in God— as you seek to live out your Christian faith?



20 May 2018 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

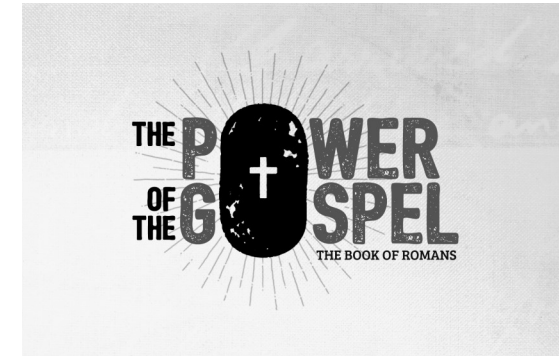
We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week: All Glory to the Merciful and Wise God!

The failure of the Jews does NOT show that God isn't trustworthy. In fact, it's the opposite: the failure of the Jews shows that God is indeed trustworthy. Even more than that, it shows God's absolute faithfulness in showing mercy to both Jews and Gentiles.

The question that we're left with is this: will we humble ourselves and glorify God for who He is and how He works?

by Pastor Ben Ho



Today's Service

Welcome and Singing	You've Made Us Your Own Receive The Glory Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Holy Communion	
Offering	
Community News	
Bible Reading	Romans 11
Sermon	By Pastor Ben
Song of Response	Receive The Glory

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Check out slechurch.org.au/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am. We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

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Financial Update

Last Week	\$5,239.63
Weekly Required	\$5,613.00
Shortfall 2018	\$3,171.00

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

PRAISE GOD FOR ROMANS 9-10! Praise God for the clear message that not only is God sovereign and in control, but that we are also genuinely responsible for our response. Praise God that this means we are never outside of His good plans, and we are also not merely robots or actors playing out a predetermined drama.

PRAY THAT WE WOULD BE FAITHFUL to what scripture holds out before us. Even in those times we find a tension that is not easily resolved, pray that we would dig deeper as we hold these truths firmly together.

PRAY FOR THE RESULTS OF THE MEMBER'S MEETING. Pray that the values our church surveyed would be ones that we will support. Pray that the vision which is being crafted would help us as a church grow and drive our aspirations. Pray for wisdom for our leaders and church in this process as we seek to discover what God intends for us to become.

PRAY FOR THE SICK AMONG US. With the change in weather many of us have fallen ill with various colds. Pray for healing and recovery for those who are sick. Pray for the vulnerable—the elderly and the young—that they may be strengthened in this time of rest. Pray that we as a church family would rally to help those affected by illness.

Community News

SLE CHURCH, SLDB & CCCB INC AGM | Sunday 3 June at North Hall

SLE members, please note the above AGMs will be held on Sunday 3 June in the North Hall. Members are expected to attend either in person or by proxy the SLE Church AGM. For the SLDB and CCCB Inc AGMs, attendance by proxy will be acceptable.

Proxy votes are available on the outside of the foyer sliding doors

SLE AGM : 1:15pm-1:45pm
SLDB AGM : 1:45pm-2:15pm
CCCB Inc AGM 2:15pm-2:30pm

Serving

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Gabriel	Bryan
Preach	Ps Ben	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Matthew <i>Alice</i>	Andrew <i>Marilyn</i>
M.Tea	YF Fri/Sat YF Fri/Sat	YF Fri/Sat YF Fri/Sat
Wash Up	YF Fri/Sat	YF Fri/Sat
Welcome	Philip Mee Lan Meng Yin <i>Wei-En</i> <i>Marcus</i> <i>Leya</i> <i>Andrew</i>	Philip Mee Lan Meng Yin <i>Wei-En</i> <i>Marcus</i> <i>Leya</i> <i>Andrew</i>
Stewards	Alvin Matt Tao <i>Aaron</i> <i>Nethanel</i> <i>Yong Seng</i>	Alvin Matt Tao <i>Aaron</i> <i>Nethanel</i> <i>Yong Seng</i>
Piano	Dan Lowe	Sylvia
Guitar		Dom
Bass	Chuan Yuan	Aaron
Drums		
Vocal	Lim An	Alisha
PA	Li Wei <i>Daniel</i>	Reuten <i>Chris</i>

All Glory to the Merciful and Wise God! [Romans 11]

1. Introduction

“Can we (Gentiles) really trust God to keep His promises to us?”

2. Has God Completely Rejected His People, the Jews?

A. No! Always a remnant, by grace

Though the Jews are consistently rebellious, God has not completely rejected the Jews, God always has and will always continue to save a remnant

B. No! Present partial hardening, for Gentile salvation

The present rejection of the Jews is partial, which God is using to bring salvation to the Gentiles

C. No! Future fullness, for Gentile and Jew

Despite Jewish rejection, God will still mercifully save the full number of Jews and Gentiles He intends

3. Implications

A. Be humbled

B. Keep faith

C. Marvel at the riches of God’s mercy

D. Glorify God in all His inscrutable wisdom and ways

4. Conclusion