

September 23

Romans 10: 6: 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*;) 7: Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) 8: 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; 9: 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. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11: For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

The righteousness of God freely given to all whom God saves is the righteousness which is of faith. This is the one way in which God makes sinners righteous and saves us from our sins. The righteousness which is of faith does not require of the sinner that which is impossible or out of reach. There are not great heights to be ascended or depths to be fathomed. It is not some great experience or feeling or work or words to be repeated. Faith is the gift of God. It is given into the heart which God has made new through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

When God reveals Christ in the heart, then and there the sinner beholds the Righteousness of God, Christ Jesus. Divine revelation opens the heart, bringing his child to the end of the law, Christ himself, saying, "My child, meet Christ who is the Holiness, Justice and Goodness of the law. Meet your Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption." The revelation of Christ is the gift of faith in the heart.

The sinner in whom this gift is bestowed believes in the heart that God raised Christ from the dead because he beholds Christ is the Righteousness of God, because he beholds Christ has fulfilled the law which was against him and took it out of the way, because he beholds Christ has put away his sins forever so that in Christ he has access and acceptance with God. Having his inner man overwhelmed with Christ his Righteousness, the word of faith is near, even in his mouth and in his heart. He finds he is not ashamed to confess to God and the world that Christ is his Righteousness. He has not done any work at all to make himself righteous. But by simply believing on Christ, he has believed unto righteousness. He has not done any work at all to save himself. But by simply confessing with his mouth that he is the purchased possession of the Lord Jesus, he has confessed unto salvation.

No sinner will ever believe and confess Christ so long as he continues waiting for an experience or feeling or looking to his knowledge of doctrine. But when we are made to behold Christ in the heart, what good news, "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."