

## “The Word Is Near You”

### Romans 10:5-8

June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 – Pastor Nick Neves

**Romans 10:5-10** – <sup>5</sup>For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. <sup>6</sup>But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup>“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup>But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)

\*Paul quotes Leviticus 18:5, and alludes to Deuteronomy 30:1-14

Looking back to Romans 10:4, we see a hint that Paul is beginning to expand his discussion beyond unbelieving Israel to show that the gospel has the power to save Gentiles as well as Jews:

**Romans 10:4** – <sup>4</sup>For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

In the opening verses of chp.10, Paul is drawing a hard distinction between...

- a righteousness that comes from the law.
- a righteousness that is based on faith.  
(faith in Christ's faithfulness of the law)

It may be helpful to think about this in terms of salvation through \_\_\_\_\_, in otherwards, trying to merit God's favor by being personally faithful to the covenant law, or salvation through \_\_\_\_\_ – trusting in the perfect faithfulness of Jesus.

Paul's use of Leviticus 18:5 is best understood by looking to another place where Paul uses the same verse: Galatians 3:10-12.

“Cursed be everyone who does not abide by **all things written in the Book of the Law**, and do them.”

Our personal attempts at faithfulness are not sufficient to assure us life!

The second passage that Paul evokes is not a direct quotation. Paul is \_\_\_\_\_ the language of Deuteronomy 30 to help explain a distinct aspect of the New Covenant of grace.

**Here is what this illustration communicates to us:**

In Deuteronomy 30, Moses is showing that God was kind to bring the \_\_\_\_\_ to Israel.

In Romans 10, Paul is showing that under this new covenant of grace, God was even more kind to bring the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ to Israel.

It was not man's task to ascend to heaven and bring down a Savior, nor was it his task to raise Jesus up from the dead after He was crucified. These necessary activities were accomplished by the sovereign hand of God.

We would not have thought to do either of those things, and we would have been powerless to accomplish them if we HAD thought to do them! **But here is the good news:** The word is NOT far from you! God doesn't NEED you to do either of these things, because He has accomplished them! And by accomplishing them, He has reconciled believers to Himself.

In what ways does Jesus, the living Word, dwell with His people?