

ROMANS

THE CHRISTIAN'S CONSTITUTION

STUDY TWENTY-FIVE

Straight Talk about Responsibility

Romans 10:1–21

*My job is to tell you that there's bread to eat, there's water to drink.
You don't have to starve over there. It's available.*

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

WE can't imagine crossing our arms and zipping shut our mouths after locating fuel for our car during an oil shortage, obtaining life-saving medicine during a pandemic, or finding food and water after a hurricane. We share the good news with those around us because we know that their survival depends on it. Whether they heed our message or dismiss our life-saving information, we make sure that we do our part!

The “bread of life” who satisfies our hungry souls is Jesus Christ (John 6:35). He is the “living water” who quenches our deepest thirst (4:10). However, fear and timidity can pressure us to zip our lips and not tell others who and what we've found. An unbalanced view of Scripture can lead us to say, “Who gets saved is up to God! It's really none of my business.”

God is sovereign. True. His hand controls the affairs of the earth, and, according to the doctrine of predestination we examined in Romans 9, He reaches down into the pool of humanity and selects those for His own.

In Romans 10, however, Paul flips sovereignty's coin to the other side—human responsibility. While salvation is entirely God's work and “He has mercy on whom He desires” (Romans 9:18 NASB), He is not to blame when people reject His Son. Unbelievers are responsible for their own choices and the consequences.

Believers are responsible too. It's our job to share Christ's spiritual food with starving people. Some unbelievers will accept Christ with open arms. Others will toss Him aside. What they do with the life-giving bread and water their souls crave is up to them. We have done our part.



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PREPARE YOUR HEART

David confessed his deep yearning for the only One who truly satisfies his soul:

*O God, you are my God;
I earnestly search for you.
My soul thirsts for you;
my whole body longs for you
in this parched and weary land
where there is no water. (Psalm 63:1)*

Express your gratitude to God for having received from Jesus living water. Ask Him to fill your heart with enthusiasm for sharing the message that can quench the thirstiness of every soul.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

Paul said in Romans 9 that gentiles—who had nothing, deserved nothing, pursued nothing, and expected nothing—“attained righteousness . . . by faith” (Romans 9:30 NASB). The Jews, however, “who tried so hard to get right with God by keeping the law, *never succeeded*” (9:31, emphasis added). Why? Because they counted on their own works instead of trusting in God’s provision: Jesus Christ. Jesus came to His own people, “but they didn’t want Him” (John 1:11 MSG).

Does their rejection of Jesus as the Messiah mean we stop praying for unsaved Jews and reaching out to them? How should we react to anyone who rejects the gospel? Paul answers these questions in Romans 10.

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Observation: Israel, the Gospel, and Human Responsibility

Paul never ceased reaching out to his fellow Jews. “The longing of my heart and my prayer to God,” Paul wrote with tears in his eyes, “is for the people of Israel to be saved” (Romans 10:1). Why didn’t the Jews as a nation receive salvation through Christ, according to *Romans 10:2–4*? What truth could they not grasp?

Read *10:8–21* in the NLT, NASB, and The Message.

Attaining righteousness through the Law requires “obedience to all of its commands” (10:5)—which only Christ could do. The good news is that God counts sinners as righteous “based on faith” in Christ (10:6 NASB). This good news is the core of the gospel.

Use your observation skills to find detailed information in these verses that confirms the following foundational facts that Paul asserts about the gospel.

1. The gospel is within reach of all (10:8): _____

2. The gospel is offered to all (10:11–13): _____

3. The gospel is not accepted by all (10:16): _____

4. The gospel continues to be offered to all (10:20–21): _____

Because these facts are true, what is the responsibility of *unbelievers* regarding how they respond to Christ, according to *10:9–13*?

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According to *Romans 10:14–15*, what is the responsibility of *believers* regarding how they proclaim Christ?

What responses can we expect from unbelievers, according to *10:16–21*?

In Romans 10, we turn from the vertical to the horizontal. We realize each one of us is responsible for the truth we hear. We are free to accept it, or we are free to reject it. And so, the Jews are now responsible for their actions. If they reject the Messiah, waiting for one yet to come, there are consequences. One of those consequences is that the Jew is set aside. And by the grace of God, gentiles have the privilege of hearing and responding to the gospel of Christ.

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Interpretation: We Are Responsible for the Truth We Hear!

Paul was heartbroken that his Jewish friends rejected the Savior and sought to establish a righteousness of their own. “Christ is the end of the law,” Paul declared (*Romans 10:4 NASB*), yet they didn’t believe him. Look at this phrase in various Bible translations. Note what this statement means and why it is vital to our understanding of the gospel.

Verse 4: don’t you love it? “Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who. . .” works really hard? No. To everyone who what? Believes. He paid it all. He picked up the tab. He took care of everything. And you and I stepped in and said, “Thank You.” —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Paul stated in *Romans 10:8–10* that we're all responsible for the truth we hear—Jew and gentile alike—because the gospel is available to all. How would you explain the process of putting one's faith in Christ? How does this process emphasize human responsibility?

So the gospel begins by being preached. There is the declaration. You may have heard it through a printed page, a message, or a song. Look at verse 9, here's appropriation—you confess with your mouth, you believe in your heart. Verse 10 is justification—the sovereign act of God whereby He declares righteous the believing sinner while he or she is still in a sinning state.

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

What guarantees does God offer to those who believe, according to *10:11–13*? What do these promises mean?

Everything else you work hard for. Except in salvation, you don't pay anything. "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." It's called the doctrine of eternal security. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Paul reminded us in *10:16–20* that not everyone welcomes the good news. How important is it that Christians remember this truth when sharing the gospel?

You're responsible for you. They're responsible for them. The bridge will be a communication bridge, a love bridge, an acceptance and compassion bridge, but please don't push them. Be gracious. Be understanding. Don't try to clean up their lives so they'll be ready for Jesus. Jesus is not looking for people cleaned up.

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Correlation: Sharing the Good News

Jesus exemplified the importance of sharing the good news with others. When Jews generally avoided Samaria because of the deep-seated religious divide that existed between them and the Samaritans, He intentionally took that route to offer the Samaritan woman water that would forever quench her spiritual thirst. What takeaways do you have from *John 4:1–42* about sharing the good news and human responsibility?

Because the offer is universal, everyone is responsible. To whom is it offered? Everyone. Our culture and other cultures. Jew and gentile. Young and old. Male, female. Educated, uneducated. Whatever color. Whatever race.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Application: Share, Care, and Pray!

Having given your attention to comprehensive observation, accurate interpretation, and careful correlation, now you can move to the step of personal and insightful application.¹ It means to allow the truths that you have gleaned to transform your life. What are two principles from the previous sections that you want to remember when sharing the good news?

You see, just knowing they're lost doesn't mean you stop praying. It means you start praying. It means you reach out very diligently in prayer for them.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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During this study, what names of people has the Holy Spirit brought to your mind who need you to tell them about Christ, care about their situation, or pray for their salvation? Why not take some time to ask God for opportunities to share the good news, ways to show them that you care, and a change in their heart to accept His Son? Write your prayer below.

You need to share. Keep caring and pray. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



A FINAL PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for pursuing me! I've found the bread of life. I've tasted the living water. Help me tell others that they don't have to starve in this parched and weary world. Open my mouth to keep telling them that Jesus is available. May my faith be contagious, my joy irresistible, and my understanding of people free of judgment. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

ENDNOTE

1. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page, "[How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?](#)"

For the 2025 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Mirlenda Noëlliste in collaboration with Aaron Massey, senior vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, and Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 2007, 2025 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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