

FRANCONIA MENNONITE CHURCH

# POURED OUT

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*A Lent Series*

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*Salvation Flowing from Our Hearts and Our Lips*

| Romans 10:8-13

## | A LENT SERIES?

- Lent: is a period of penitential preparation for Easter. Often involved Christians giving up food or money in order to emulate Christ's obedience to the Father.
- Associated with the Gospel account of the temptations of Jesus (40 days).
- Until recently, Lent has not observed by many in the Mennonite/Anabaptist tradition.

## | 'AFFAIR OF THE SAUSAGES'

- 12 men sought to challenge fasting laws of Zurich
- In protest, they gathered at the cathedral and ate sausages
- “If you will fast, do so; if you do not wish to eat meat, eat it not; but leave Christians a free choice in the matter.”



# | A PRAYER TO BEGIN LENT

ALFRED THE GREAT, 9<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

Lord God Almighty, shaper and ruler of all creatures,  
we pray for your great mercy, that you guide us  
towards you, for we cannot find our way.

# | A PRAYER TO BEGIN LENT

ALFRED THE GREAT, 9<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

And guide us to your will, to the need of our soul,  
for we cannot do it ourselves. And make our mind  
steadfast in your will and aware of our soul's need.

# | A PRAYER TO BEGIN LENT

ALFRED THE GREAT, 9<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

Strengthen us against the temptations of the devil, and remove from us all lust and every unrighteousness, and shield us against our foes, seen and unseen.

# | A PRAYER TO BEGIN LENT

ALFRED THE GREAT, 9<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

Teach us to do your will, that we may inwardly love you before all things with a pure mind. For you are our maker and our redeemer, our help, our comfort, our trust, our hope; praise and glory be to you now and forever.

| GOD POURS HIMSELF OUT FOR US

| WE POUR OURSELVES OUT FOR HIM

# | A “POURED-OUT PEOPLE”

- Being “Poured Out” Becomes a Marker of God and His People

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We are an Anabaptist congregation committed to following Jesus in all things, so that God’s love flows through us to our community and the world.

# | THE CONTEXT OF PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

- Paul is writing to the Christians in Rome before ever having met them in person.

<sup>13</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. (1:13)

# | THE CONTEXT OF PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

- Paul is eager to spend time with them, and still intends to.

<sup>23</sup> But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since **I have been longing** for many years **to visit you**,  
<sup>24</sup> **I plan to do so** when I go to Spain. (15:23-24)

# | THE CONTEXT OF PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

- Paul is bringing money given by the churches in Macedonia and Achaia to support the Christians in Jerusalem who had been reduced to poverty.

<sup>25</sup> Now, however, I am **on my way to Jerusalem** in the service of the Lord's people there. <sup>26</sup> For **Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor** among the Lord's people in Jerusalem... (15:25-26)

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A. **The monetary wealth of the Gentiles** is now to be **shared generously with the Jews**.



B. **The spiritual wealth of the Jews** is now to be **shared generously with the Gentiles**.

# | THE CONTEXT OF PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

<sup>4</sup> If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. (Phil. 3:4-6)

# | THE CONTEXT OF PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. (Mt. 13:44)

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<sup>8</sup> **I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ** <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. (Phil. 3:8-9)

# | THE ISSUE IN ROME

# | ALLOWING NON-ESSENTIALS TO CAUSE DISUNITY

- Different cultural practices:
  - Adherence to O.T. dietary laws
  - Observance of Jewish feast days
- Their identities were so wrapped up in keeping particular cultural practices, Christian brothers and sisters in the same churches were no longer able to love each other.

# | ALLOWING NON-ESSENTIALS TO CAUSE DISUNITY

➤ 1 John 4:8

“He who does not love does not \_\_\_\_\_.”

➤ How well could a church fulfill the Great Commission if they themselves don't know God?

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- Some began teaching the idea that circumcision was absolutely necessary for salvation.
- Since Jesus is the only way, all other means by which people seek to obtain salvation are by definition invalid and illegitimate.

# | GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

<sup>1</sup> Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.  
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➤ What is our heart's desire and prayer for the lost ones of our own day and age?

# | GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

“They had a zeal of God;

The Jew knew the Law better than his own name.”

-Josephus, 1st century AD.

# | GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

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➤ Where have we sought to establish our own way rather than submitting to Jesus?

# | GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

<sup>3</sup> Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. (Ro. 10:3-4)

# | GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

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- The righteousness that is based on the law affirms the goodness of God's law.

<sup>5</sup> Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live by them. I am the Lord. (Lev. 18:5)

# | GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

- The **righteousness that is based on the law** affirms the goodness of God's law.
  - <sup>5</sup> Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live by them. I am the Lord. (Lev. 18:5)
- But none can keep it perfectly.
  - <sup>23</sup> for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Ro. 3:23-24)

# | GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

- We must turn to the righteousness that is by faith.

# | GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

- Righteous by faith depends not on the work of our **hands** but on the condition of our **hearts**.

<sup>11</sup> Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. <sup>12</sup> It is not up in heaven... <sup>13</sup> Nor is it beyond the sea... <sup>14</sup> No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

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<sup>8</sup> “The word is **near you**; it is **in your mouth** and **in your heart**,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim. (Ro. 10:8)

# | FAITH REQUIRES CONFESSION & BELIEF

<sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Ro. 10:9)

A. **Belief** that God raised Christ from the dead

B. **Confession** that, “Jesus is Lord.”

# | CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

<sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." (Ro. 10:11)

# | UNITY AND IDENTITY IN THE SAVIOR

<sup>12</sup> For there is **no difference** between Jew and Gentile—the **same Lord** is Lord of all and richly blesses **all** who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, “**Everyone** who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Ro. 10:12-13)

# | DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. What does it look like for you “to confess Jesus as Lord” this week?
2. How does your faith in Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection impact the way you live from day to day?
3. Who are the specific people God has brought into this season of your life? Each one is precious to God. Commit to sharing the good news of salvation with (at least) one person before Easter Sunday.



# | PAUL'S DECLARATION OF FAITH

ROMANS 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

# | PAUL'S DECLARATION OF FAITH

ROMANS 1:16-17

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

