

## FAITH IN CONTEXT

*“If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and trust in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart a person trusts, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (Rom 10<sup>9-10</sup>)*

Some people have taken this passages and misconstrued it. For example, you make it sound like if you were to just say the words with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” then you’re saved! And that’s the whole plan of salvation!

But is that really what Paul is saying? Not quite... let’s look at the context.

You’ll Notice in verses 6-8, Paul quotes Moses from Dt. 30<sup>11-14</sup>, *“Do not say in your heart, who will ascend into heaven? Or who will descend into the abyss (I.e, a bottomless pit)? But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart.”*

Now, the point being made in Deuteronomy is that God has not set His requirements for us as something that is difficult to accomplish. We don’t need to go into a bottomless pit or up the highest mountain to know what God wants us to do, but, *“the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it.”* (Dt. 30<sup>14</sup>)

Paul is telling us that **all** of God’s Word has been given us, and can be acted upon.

Where salvation is concerned, it is not so difficult a read to know what all we need to do. In addition to belief and confession, repentance and baptism is part of the plan (Act 2<sup>38</sup>), and let no one tell you otherwise.

Please, act upon the **entire** word, and let **all** of it reside in your mouth.

*WHSmith*