***Romans 10:10-11 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”***

Baptism Sunday! What a blessing to have Vernon come rededicating his life to Jesus. We’re blessed to call him brother, as we are blessed to call so many brethren. It’s exciting to receive brothers and sisters, whether they’ve come for the first time or as a rededication of their life to Jesus. God has been so good to us, and we thank Him for His mercy, grace, and unmerited favor – for His precious, precious gifts.

 Verse 10 starts - *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness.* I once heard that the longest journey of faith we ever make is the 12 inches separating our head and from our heart. Understanding and knowledge, though it is critical in our journey, does not lead to righteousness. Believing with the heart is living and active faith, not just an intellectual exercise. Believing with the heart informs our every decision, as we lay aside the things of this world and turn our eyes fully upon Jesus. By faith alone we are justified and by this same faith we walk according to the spirit!

 Verse 10 finishes - *and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* When we accept Jesus, we profess our faith in Him. Professing is to declare and affirm faith. We’re declaring publicly that we belong to Him. The Latin for profess literally means, “before confess”. But, our verse says with the mouth confession is made. Confess means to forcefully declare and avow. Profess has the idea of joining and confess has the idea of claiming it forevermore. If I sin, I confess. I declare my association with the sin. When we believe in our hearts unto righteousness, which is Jesus, as we spoke about last week in 1 Corinthians 1:30, we then, from this place of faith, believing with the heart, we confess, for everyone and anyone to hear. No matter the consequence or the cost, we confess that we are saved by the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. Matthew 10:32-33 *- Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.****33****But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven*. We boldly claim Jesus before all men and admit we are submitted to His Kingship.

 This morning, we had Vernon come professing and confessing. He professed his faith in Jesus, but his life has been a living confession of Jesus for many years. He lives his faith in obedience, with integrity and humility. Likewise, we who belong to Jesus live in faith and obedience, with integrity and humility – that is our walk according to the spirit.

 Verse 11 - *For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”* This reminds us of John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* Looking back to verse 10, we believe unto righteousness and confess unto Salvation. We do not deny and will not be denied, as Matthew 10 tells us. He chooses us and we choose Him, taking up our cross daily. We will not be put to shame. He promises He will never leave us nor forsake us. We are His disciples, His students, His servants, His friends, His co-heirs, sons and daughters of the Most High God, and we spend life learning of our Master. Isaiah 28:16 *Therefore thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.* A tried, precious cornerstone - Matthew 21:42 *Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’?* He’s referring to Psalm 118:22-23.Jesus is our precious cornerstone, a sure foundation. We believe and will not be put to shame. We do not act hastily, but wait patiently upon God, serving the Master with diligence, and watching for His wonderful return. But it all starts with heart belief upon that sure Foundation, known as Righteousness, the Source of Eternal Salvation.

 This week, let’s praise our Precious Cornerstone for His sure foundation undergirding our faith and opening us to eternal life. May we seek all who have never believed in heart and boldly confess our belief in Jesus, witnessing that they might come to salvation as well. May we live out the words of Jesus - *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,****20****teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*