

Stumblin’, Bumblin’, Fumblin’

ROMANS 9:30-10:13
Sunday, September 27, 2026 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Self-reliance always **STUMBLES** over Jesus (9:30-33)

outsiders find it Isa 65:1; Matt 8:11; Luke 19:10; Acts 13:48; Eph 2:13

stumbled or humbled? Ps 118:22; Luke 20:17–18; Matt 11:6; Luke 2:34; 1 Pet 2:7–8

and leads to zeal that **MISSES GOD**, (10:1-4)

 **sincere, but sincerely wrong** Prov 14:12; Luke 18:10–14; Matt 7:22–23; Matt 23:15; John 5:39–40

Christ is the finish line Matt 5:17; Luke 24:27; Col 2:17; Heb 10:1; 2 Cor 1:20

but saving faith simply **CALLS ON JESUS**. (10:5-13)

 **no climbing required** 10:5-10 Rom 4:5; Eph 2:8–9; John 3:13; John 1:14; Titus 3:5

anyone can call 10:11-13 Luke 23:42–43; John 6:37; Acts 10:43; Rom 3:22–23; Rev 22:17

NEVER GOOD
ENOUGH

IT’S NEVER ENOUGH..

Sometimes we are like those people who try to achieve God’s approval by keeping his laws. We may think that going to church, doing church work, giving offerings, and being nice will be enough. After all, we’ve played by the rules, haven’t we? But Paul’s words sting—this approach never succeeds. Paul explained that God’s plan is not for those who try to earn his favor by being good; it is for those who realize they can **never** be good enough and so must depend on Christ. Only by putting our faith in what Jesus Christ has done will we be saved. If we do that, we will never be “put to shame” or disappointed.

Barton, Bruce B., David Veerman, and Neil S. Wilson. 1992. Romans. Life Application Bible Commentary. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You
Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, take some time to catch up with one another as you gather.

If it helps, here’s a question to discuss and get you going. Have everyone answer:
Tell us about a time you did something the long, hard way, only to find out later there was a much easier way to do it all along.

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

-  **Read Romans 9:30-10:13.** Looking back at your notes from this week’s message, was there anything you heard for the first time or anything that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
-  **Read Luke 19:1–10.** Zacchaeus climbed a tree just to get a look at Jesus, and by the end of the day Jesus said salvation had come to his house. Paul describes the same surprise with the Gentiles: people who weren't pursuing righteousness found it, while Israel chased it hard and never got there (**Rom 9:30–31**). Why are people who know they have nothing to offer God often quicker to receive grace than people who've spent their lives trying to be good?
-  **Read Isaiah 28:16 and 1 Peter 2:6–8.** God laid this stone in Zion on purpose (**Rom 9:33**). For some it's a foundation to build on, and for others it's something to trip over. What is it about Jesus people still trip over today?

At Wawasee, each of us is growing to increasingly live out these four roles as we follow Jesus together.



Secure Son/Daughter

I live each day increasingly confident in being a loved child of God—resting in grace, not striving to achieve approval.



Courageous Connector

I cultivate honest relationships that cross barriers and create belonging—even before belief.



Ready Storyteller

I live each day with a sense of sentness, ready to reveal my story and God's story.



Legacy Builder

Because of Jesus, I multiply what has been given to me by spiritually investing in others for kingdom impact.

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week’s message.

Word Find: Romans 10:8-13 (NIV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your **mouth** and in your **heart**,” that is, the **message concerning faith** that we **proclaim**: ⁹If you **declare** with your **mouth**, “**Jesus is Lord**,” and **believe** in your **heart** that God **raised** him from the **dead**, you will be **saved**. ¹⁰For it is with your **heart** that you **believe** and are **justified**, and it is with your **mouth** that you **profess** your **faith** and are **saved**.
¹¹ As **Scripture** says, “**Anyone** who **believes** in him will **never** be put to **shame**.” ¹²For there is no **difference** between Jew and **Gentile**—the **same** **Lord** is **Lord** of all and **richly blesses** all who **call** on him, ¹³for, “**Everyone** who **calls** on the **name** of the **Lord** will be **saved**.”

S R C F D V H M O U T H B
A E R A I S E D E A D V F
V A B I F A A J E S U S L
E Y F T F M R U E R E M G
D M M H E E T S N E V E R
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M U L G E N T I L E B E N
D O Y S H A M E S S A G E



life groups

Study Guide (continued)

4.  **Read Philippians 3:4–9.** Paul says Israel had "a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge" (**Rom 10:2**), and he knew that kind of zeal from the inside. How can someone be sincere, passionate, and busy for God and still miss him? How/where have you seen it?
 - If you grew up in church or spent years trying to earn God's approval, how did you come to see the difference between being religious and trusting Christ? Share your story with the group.
5.  **Read Matthew 5:17 and 2 Corinthians 1:20.** "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes" (**Rom 10:4**). Jesus didn't throw out the law; he's where it was headed all along. How does seeing Jesus as the finish line of the law change the way you read the Old Testament?
 - If obeying God's commands isn't how we get right with him, why should a follower of Jesus still care about obeying them?
6.  **Read Romans 3:22–23 and Romans 10:12–13.** Paul uses the same words, "no distinction," in both places. In chapter 3 it's about sin. In chapter 10 it's about salvation. Why is it good news that both are true?
 - Who might hear "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" and assume it couldn't possibly include them?

Taking It Home

7. You don't need to climb up to heaven or go down into the depths to find Christ. He already came down, he's already been raised, and the word is near you, "in your mouth and in your heart" (**10:6–8**). A  **Secure Son/Daughter** lives "increasingly confident in being a loved child of God—resting in grace, not striving to achieve approval." **Where are you still climbing to feel sure God accepts you, and what would it look like to stop climbing and rest in his grace there this week?**

As you close, take time to pray for each other.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

Wawasee Community Bible Church

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Sunday, September 27, 2026

PART 19

**Stumblin',
Bumblin',
Fumblin'**

ROMANS 9:30-10:13





We're Glad You're Here Today!



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