


Faith, righteousness and salvation in Romans

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In the book of Romans, also called 'Paul's Letter/Epistle to the Romans', it is clear that Paul created a very close lexical semantic relation between the concepts πίστις/πιστεύω [faith, believe], δίκαιος/δικαιοσύνη [righteous, righteousness] and σωτηρία/σώζω [salvation, save]. Although it is said that the theme of righteousness (by or through faith) is the focal point of Paul's theology, especially in Romans, this term is very closely linked to the two concepts, faith and salvation, in this letter. The aim of this article is to investigate that relation, specifically in the two passages of Romans 1:16–17 and 10:6a, 8b–10, in an attempt to come to an understanding of what Paul had in mind when he used these three terms together in these passages.

Introduction

The common difference in focus between the words of Jesus and the theology of Paul is said to be that Jesus has focused more on the kingdom of God (cf. Wilson 2014:2ff.), while Paul's arguments centred around righteousness ('justification') by or through faith (*ex sola fide*; cf. Van Aarde 2017:2 of 10; Heliso 2007:5–8; Stefon 2011:66, 281), especially in his letter to the Romans¹ – this became a 'central Reformation doctrine' (cf. Dunn 1982:3 of 16).² Some scholars refer to it as a central idea of Paul's theology (Seifrid 1992; cf. O'Brien 1992:69–95), while Bultmann (1971:217) argues that only πίστις [faith], and not the combination, constitutes the centre of Paul's theology.

Two passages³ in this letter are highlighted and discussed, namely Romans 1:16–17 and 10:6a, 8b–10.⁴ In these two passages the three terms – 'faith', 'salvation' and 'righteousness' – are related, and that relation is discussed. Romans 1:16–17 serves as Paul's *Propositio* (thesis, or basic contention) to his letter (Jewett 2006:135; cf. Garlington 2008:37), and therefore Romans 10 will be understood in light of the former.

Introductory notes

Possible translations of the three terms and related terms

From a grammatical point of view, Louw and Nida (1988:744; 452–453; 532; 570) refer to possible translations of πίστις/πιστεύω, δικαιοσύνη/δίκαιος⁵ and σωτηρία/σώζω, appearing or related to the two passages in discussion (interestingly, Rm 10:8–10 is not discussed in the entire lexicon); therefore only passages relevant to this discussion are quoted, together with possible translations:

πίστις (Louw & Nida 1988:376–377)

(b) to believe to the extent of complete reliance (Rm 1:17)

πιστεύω (Louw & Nida 1988:378)

(c) to believe in the good news about Jesus Christ and to become a follower (Rm 1:16)

δίκαιος (Louw & Nida 1988:452)

(b) be put right with (Rm 1:17)

δικαιοσύνη (Louw & Nida 1988:452)

(b) to cause someone to be in a proper or right relation with someone else (Rm 1:17)

1.Garlington (2008:37–38) rephrases these words with 'the availability of God's righteousness apart from the law', focusing more on the Old Testament.

2.Dunn (1982:3 of 16) refers to this interpretation as a 'Lutheran hermeneutic', which was followed by remarkable scholars such as Bultmann (1958:84) and Käsemann (1970:405). According to him, 'both read Paul through Lutheran spectacles and both made this understanding of justification by faith their central theological principle' (cf. also Vaino 2008).

3.Although only two passages are highlighted in this article, it is noted that Dunson (2011:23ff.) connects Romans 1:16–17 to both 3:21–5:2 and 9:30–10:17. The reason for this lies in his focus on πίστις, while this article focuses on the three mentioned terms.

4.Oliver (2015:8 of 12) has already indicated that Romans 10:9–10 can be regarded as a hapax legomenon in the writings of Paul.

5.The term δικαίω is not discussed here, as it does not appear in one of the two mentioned passages.

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According to the UBS3 (United Bible Societies) Dictionary (Newman & Nida 1973:46), δικαιοσύνη can be translated with 'righteousness', 'justice', 'justification' or '(God) putting (mankind) in a right relationship (with himself)'. From a theological point of view, a possible translation of the term δικαιοσύνη has been debated thoroughly during the last half of the previous century. Dunn (1992:21) prefers 'justice', referring rather to the 'justice of God' than to the shift of Protestantism to 'justification by faith'. Bultmann (1951:271–272; 279–285) gives preference to 'righteousness of God' and sees it as a gift of God that he has bestowed on everyone who enters into the right relationship with him. This relationship is based on faith. Käsemann (1971:6–78) understands δικαιοσύνη in ontological terms, referring back to the Jewish apocalyptic where the righteousness of God was connected to an obedience, producing power with reference to the individual. Wright (1991:148–151) regards δικαιοσύνη as something built firmly on Christ and on the Holy Spirit, through Spirit-inspired faith in God, as it is revealed by Jesus Christ. Garlington (2008:23, 24) refers to δικαιοσύνη as a 'vindicated existence (*his emphasis*) conferred on a person by a gracious God', which is 'action-oriented' (in line with the Old Testament) and not merely 'status' or 'being' language.

The phrase δικαιοσύνη θεοῦ puts the emphasis on the electing grace of God, as well as his covenantal mercy and his loving kindness (Garlington 2008:25). This phrase originates from the Old Testament 'in form and content' (Dunn 1982:10 of 16), especially the Psalms (cf. Ps 50:6; 51:14):

σῶζω (Louw & Nida 1988:242)

(b) to cause someone to experience divine salvation (Ac 13:25)

σωτηρία (Louw & Nida 1988:241–242)

(b) salvation (state): a state of having been saved (2 Cor 7:10)

(c) salvation (event): the process of being saved (Ac 13:26)

Garlington (2008:25) argues unconvincingly that δικαιοσύνη and σωτηρία are 'synonymous'. The roots of his argument are found in the Old Testament, especially with reference to Isaiah 40–50, stating that 'God's righteousness is that aspect of his character which compels him to save Israel, despite the nation's perversity and lostness'. That there is a close link (called by Dunson 2011:25 an 'integral bond') between the two terms (in fact, actions) is obvious, but these terms are not interchangeable (*contra* Garlington). Later in his book, he states more convincingly that in Romans these two terms stand 'in parallel' to each other (Garlington 2008:43).

Translation,⁶ structure and discussion

For clarity's sake the two passages are given here with a possible (literary) translation and a structure (see Figure 1).

Romans 1:16–17

Οὐ γὰρ ἐπαισχύνομαι τὸ εὐαγγέλιον, δύναμις γὰρ θεοῦ ἐστὶν εἰς σωτηρίαν παντὶ τῷ πιστεύοντι, Ἰουδαίῳ τε πρῶτον καὶ Ἑλληνι:

6.The translation of the NIV (2011) is mainly used, with alterations.

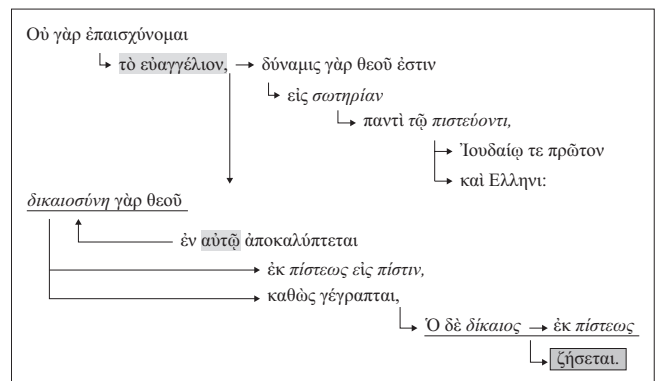


FIGURE 1: A structure of Romans 1:16–17.

δικαιοσύνη γὰρ θεοῦ ἐν αὐτῷ ἀποκαλύπτεται ἐκ πίστεως εἰς πίστιν, καθὼς γέγραπται, Ὁ δὲ δίκαιος ἐκ πίστεως ζήσεται. [For I am not ashamed⁷ of the gospel, because it is the power of God to the salvation of every believer, first to the Jew, then to the Gentile: For in it (*the gospel*) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written: 'The righteous person out/because of faith will live].

The term τὸ εὐαγγέλιον acts as the focal point of verse 16 (linking to εὐαγγελίσασθαι of verse 15). Here Paul confesses that he is not ashamed of the εὐαγγέλιον, and then he supplies attributes to εὐαγγέλιον to strengthen his confession. In these attributes the two terms σωτηρία (σωτηρίαν) and πιστεύω (πιστεύοντι) are mentioned as part of these attributes. The link between verses 16 and 17 is found in the reference to εὐαγγέλιον (v. 16) by αὐτῷ (v. 17) as indicated in the structure. However, in verse 17 the focus shifts to δικαιοσύνη (θεοῦ), which is in fact another attribute of εὐαγγέλιον, because the δικαιοσύνη (θεοῦ) is revealed in the εὐαγγέλιον. The revelation is ἐκ πίστεως εἰς πίστιν, ending with the focal point of the two verses – Ὁ δὲ δίκαιος ἐκ πίστεως ζήσεται.

The idiomatic frame ἐκ πίστεως εἰς πίστιν is mostly accepted to be translated with 'as exclusively a matter of faith' or 'of faith from beginning to end' (cf. Louw & Nida 1988:692),⁸ emphatically setting forth an 'unbroken continuity' (Käsemann 1980:31). However, the translation of the sentence in Romans 1:17b, Ὁ δὲ δίκαιος ἐκ πίστεως ζήσεται, is not that simple. This part of the verse is a quote from Habakkuk 2:4 and is also used in Galatians 3:11 and Hebrews 10:38. While most Bible translations like the NIV (2011), articles (cf. Bruce 1952:66–77; Smith 1967:13–25; Wallis 1973:17–23) and commentaries (cf. Bright & Simons 2007; Haldane 1997:69; Hendriksen 1980:61; Kruse 2012:58) translate this sentence with '[t]he righteous will live by faith' (the 'traditional' translation), Louw and Nida (1988:377; cf. also Käsemann 1980:21) rightly propose, '[h]e who is righteous because of his faith shall live'. Only five English translations could be

7.This clause is in fact a confessional formula in which Paul actually says, 'I confess the gospel' (cf. Stuhlmacher 1966:78) – discussed later in the article.

8.Many commentators are still translating the words in the phrase ἐκ πίστεως εἰς πίστιν as if it is not an idiomatic frame. One of the most recent commentators is Kruse, who translates this phrase as follows: '... from the faith of the Jews first, and now growing also among the Gentiles' (Kruse 2012:78). Ziesler (1972:187) elaborates on this: 'God's righteousness is his own covenantal loyalty, now in Paul widened beyond a covenant with Israel and made universal'.

found, translating the sentence in line with Louw and Nida (cf. Bible Study Tools 2017):

- Good News Translation (GNT): The person who is put right with God through faith shall live.
- Lexham English Bible (LEB): But the one who is righteous by faith will live.
- The Message Bible: The person in right standing before God by trusting him really lives.
- New Living Translation (NLT): It is through faith that a righteous person has life.
- Young's Literal Translation (YLT): And the righteous one by faith shall live.

Although the traditional translation is easier to comprehend, the second translation is more acceptable on a linguistic level. Macknight (1809:237; cf. also El Conquistador 2017) elaborates:

This translation is agreeable both to the order of the words in the original, and the apostle's design; which is to show that the doctrine of the gospel, concerning a righteousness by faith, is attested even by the prophets. Besides, it represents Habakkuk's meaning more truly than the common translation. For in the passage from which the quotation is made, Habakkuk describes the different dispositions of the Jews about the time they were threatened by the Chaldeans. Some of their souls were lifted up; they presumptuously trusted in their own wisdom and power, and, contrary to God's command, refused to submit to the Chaldeans, and were destroyed. But the just, or righteous, by faith, who believed God and obeyed his command, lived. However, as the reward of faith is not confined to the present life, persons who are just or good, by believing and obeying God, shall certainly live eternally. (p. 161)

Because Paul quoted directly from the Old Testament, he used the term ζήσεται [she or he (*The righteous person out/ because of faith*) will live], while it could well be that he actually had σωθήσεται [she or he will be saved] in mind, or he regarded these two terms to be synonymous in this passage. This verse may link with Romans 5:18 where Paul referred to Jesus, who has put mankind right with God: και δι' ἑνὸς δικαιοῦματος εἰς πάντας ἀνθρώπους εἰς δικαιοσύνην ζωῆς [in the same way the one righteous act sets all people free and gives them life] (Louw & Nida 1988:557, cf. 744), referring here to the act of salvation, giving the worshiper *eternal life*. There is therefore a very close link or even synonymity between the concepts 'being saved' and 'live eternally'.

According to Cranfield (1985:101), the verb form ζήσεται [will or shall live] refers to true life in God – 'the life which the believer is to begin to enjoy here and now, but which he [*sic*] will enjoy in its fullness in the eschatological future'. Meyer (1832), with reference to Habakkuk 2:4, agrees with Cranfield that the δίκαιος person will form part of the 'Messianic eternal life'. According to Kärkkäinen (2004:4–5) both salvation and justification point to unity with other Christians and also with God (see Figure 2).

Romans 10:6a, 8b–10

ἡ δὲ ἐκ πίστεως δικαιοσύνη οὕτως λέγει ... Ἐγγύς σου τὸ ῥῆμά ἐστιν, ἐν τῷ στόματί σου καὶ ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ σου: τοῦτ' ἔστιν τὸ ῥῆμα

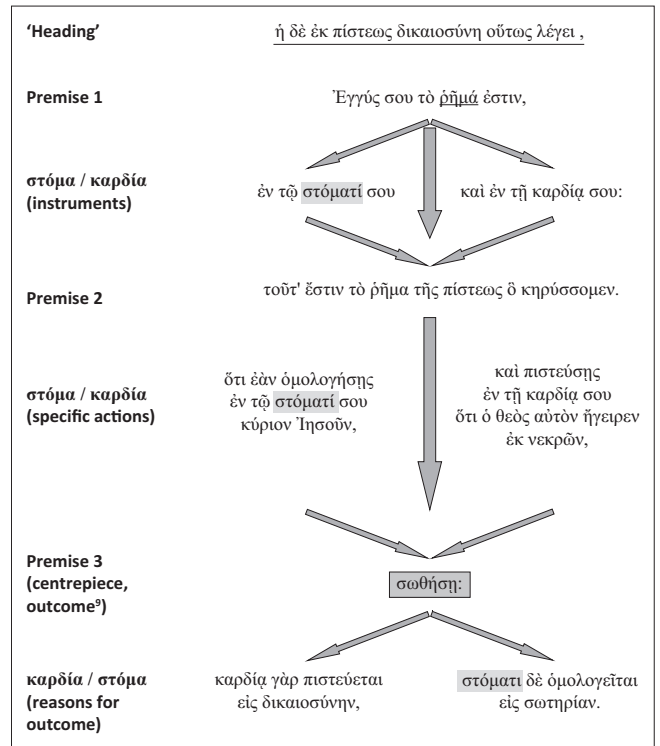


FIGURE 2: A structure of Romans 10:6a, 8b–10.

τῆς πίστεως ὃ κηρύσσομεν. ὅτι ἐὰν ὁμολογήσῃς ἐν τῷ στόματί σου κύριον Ἰησοῦν, καὶ πιστεύσῃς ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ σου ὅτι ὁ θεὸς αὐτὸν ἤγειρεν ἐκ νεκρῶν, σωθήσεται: καρδία γὰρ πιστεύεται εἰς δικαιοσύνην, στόματι δὲ ὁμολογεῖται εἰς σωτηρίαν. [But the righteousness out of faith means¹⁰ ... 'The word is close to you – in your mouth (on your lips) and in your heart: that is the word of faith that we proclaim'. For if you profess¹¹ with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and you believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved: For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth one professes to salvation].

Romans 10:6a, 8b–10 immediately links with Romans 1:(16–)17 through the two terms πίστις and δικαιοσύνη in verse 6a, here used as part of the 'heading' of this passage¹² – ἡ πίστεως δικαιοσύνη (λέγει) – that can be translated with 'being put right (*actually*, "the putting right") with God because of one's faith (*means*)¹³ (cf. Newman & Nida 1973:199). The heading together with the centrepiece or pinnacle of this passage¹⁴ (Premise 3: σωθήσεται) constitutes the focal point of this passage, in unison with Romans 1:16–17: ἡ δὲ ἐκ πίστεως δικαιοσύνη οὕτως λέγει... σωθήσεται.

9.Cf. Newman and Nida (1973:201), who refer to it as 'the result'. Käsemann (1980:291) calls it a 'pithy conclusion'.

10.According to Louw and Nida (1988:404) λέγω (specifically λέγω⁹) can also be translated with 'mean'.

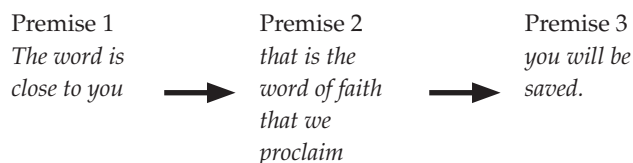
11.Wengst (1972:28) translates ὁμολογήσῃς with 'acclaim', giving a more emotional meaning to the term.

12.See Dunson (2011:33).

13.Interestingly, Käsemann (1980:290) still opts for the older version, 'righteousness because we believe'.

14.Jewett (2006:623) calls σωθήσεται 'the central member of the entire chiasmus running through 10.6–10'.

The heading is elaborated by three premises forming the backbone of the passage:



These premises form a crescendo in Premise 3, which acts as the centrepiece of the passage. In Premise 1 Paul refers to the ῥῆμα [i.e. the spoken message about faith], stating that it is ‘close’ to everyone having the πίστεως δικαιοσύνη [which forms the thrust of the heading]. In Premise 2 he explicates the ῥῆμα by referring to it as the ‘word of faith that we proclaim’. It is noteworthy that Paul duplicates the term πίστεως used in verses 6a and 8b, therefore putting the focus of what is to come on this term (as the *action* of the believer), although what follows is actually an elaboration of δικαιοσύνη:

- πίστεως δικαιοσύνη (v. 6a)
- τὸ ῥῆμα τῆς πίστεως (v. 8b).

The third premise states clearly what the outcome of the proclaimed ῥῆμα for the believer would be: ‘you will be saved’. Although it can be referred to as the content of the proclaimed ῥῆμα in this structure, it is stated to be the outcome in this passage, as it is preceded by two conditional clauses, supplying the outcome for it, and followed by the ‘reasons’ for this outcome, which can also be called the way in which the outcome is reached.

Verses 8b–10 consist of the content – the ‘flesh’ of or around the backbone, so to speak – of πίστεως δικαιοσύνη, elaborating on what it means to be in the right relationship with God. Whereas Romans 1:16–17 mentions neither στόμα nor καρδιά, this passage broadens the scope of (πίστεως) δικαιοσύνη by introducing these two terms after the first premise (here used in the dative singular, being referred to as the two instruments of πίστεως δικαιοσύνη). The ‘closeness’ (ἐγγύς) that Paul refers to in Premise 1 is actually an *insideness* to the believer: ἐν τῷ στόματι σου καὶ ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ σου – on your lips (inside your mouth) and inside your heart. After the second premise a specific action is allocated to each of these two instruments: *What* must be on one’s lips, and *what* must live inside one’s heart? This is a reference to the specific actions that these instruments should take. Here Paul uses conditional clauses to indicate what one *should do* with one’s heart and mouth in order to live according to the content of (πίστεως) δικαιοσύνη – in fact indicating that the believer *has to execute* these actions in order to receive the outcome. The *insideness* of the ῥῆμα creates a profession *from inside* the mouth of the believer that Jesus is Lord (Ἰησοῦν = κύριον),¹⁵ while it also creates a belief *from inside* the heart that God has risen him from the dead. Noteworthy is that both ‘mouth’ and ‘heart’ as the instruments

are in fact the actual subjects of both verbs: the *mouth professes* and the *heart believes*.

On this point Paul makes the *logical conclusion* that God will save this believer. This third premise, being only one word in the form of a verb, σωθήσῃ, depicts the outcome of the conditional clauses. If the instruments execute these actions, the outcome of πίστεως δικαιοσύνη will be σωθήσῃ: The believer, professing Jesus as Lord and believing that God has raised her or him from the dead, will be saved by God. Following the third premise, Paul then gives the reasons for the outcome that he has just stated, therefore *in which way* the outcome is reached by the believer who has used her or his mouth and heart according to the πίστεως δικαιοσύνη: He states unequivocally that the follower believes (with the heart) εἰς δικαιοσύνην – in order to be put right with God, with the result that God puts her or him in the right relationship with him and that the believer professes (with the mouth) εἰς σωτηρίαν – in order to be saved by God, with the result that God will save her or him. This part of the content actually duplicates the words of the conditional clauses, adding two very important nouns, δικαιοσύνην and σωτηρίαν, which are in fact also duplications of nouns or verbs already being used in the passage (as will be discussed shortly).

The way in which Paul uses the two terms, στόμα and καρδιά, in this context is set within the structure of a parallelism-cum-chiasm. This means that there is much emphasis on these words and that they are therefore very important and relevant here. In light of the relation between faith, salvation and righteousness, as described above, and the premises that faith leads to righteousness ending up in salvation, Romans 10:9–10 pictures it as follows (cf. Ito 2006:250):

ὁμολογήσῃς	(a)		ἐν τῷ	(b)	
			στόματι σου		
πίστεύσῃς	(c)		ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ σου	(d)	
			σωθήσῃ	(e)	
καρδιά	(d)		γὰρ	(c)	εἰς (c1)
			πιστεύεται		δικαιοσύνην
στόματι	(b)		δὲ	(a)	(a1=e)
			ὁμολογεῖται		εἰς σωτηρίαν

Figure 3 presents this intricate structure schematically.

This structure has a double parallelism, first linking Line 1 (a–b) to Line 2 (c–d), and then Line 3 (d–c) to Line 4 (b–a). It also contains a double chiasm (chiasmus), linking Line 1 (a–b) to Line 4 (b–a), followed by Line 2 (c–d) linked to Line 3 (d–c). Point c of Line 3 is extended to c1 (referring back to the heading of the structure), while Point a of Line 4 is extended to a1, which also equals e, which is the centrepiece of this structure – once again calling to mind the main terms in the focal point of this passage.

In this structure all the elements are clustered around the centrepiece σωθήσῃ. The parallelism carries the mentioned

15. This profession or confession was the earliest form of creed (cf. Bright & Simons 2007).

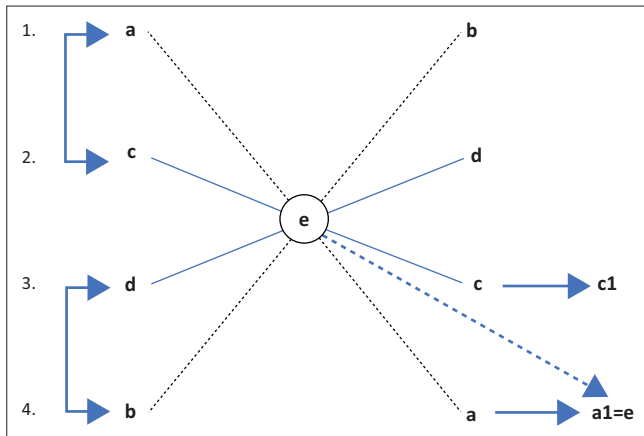


FIGURE 3: Schematic representation of Romans 10:9–10.

three ‘additional terms’, namely καρδιά, στόματι and ὁμολογείται. What is interesting is the fact that Paul connects the two verbs πιστεύεται and ὁμολογείται with καρδιά and στόματι, respectively. Whereas ‘faith’ (‘to believe’) and ‘righteousness’ were ‘singularly’ connected to ‘salvation’, now ‘faith’ is first connected (attributed) to ‘heart’ before it results in ‘righteousness’, while the terms ‘profess’ and ‘mouth’ are added before ending up in ‘salvation’. ‘Heart’ and ‘mouth’ are constituted as the sources of ‘believe’ and ‘profess’.

Parallellism:

καρδιά γὰρ πιστεύεται εἰς δικαιοσύνην
στόματι δὲ ὁμολογείται εἰς σωτηρίαν

- with your heart you believe (have faith) and are justified (have righteousness)
- with your mouth you profess (your faith) and are saved (your salvation)

In the first part of the parallelism Paul uses both parts of the phrase πίστεως δικαιοσύνη, which is in line with the phrase, and then in the second part he uses the clause ὁμολογείται εἰς σωτηρίαν. Verse 10a and 10b makes two identical statements, using στόματι and καρδιά (Käsemann 1980:291). Faith is manifested in the profession or acclamation. These two clauses are not to be separated, each having its own meaning, as Paul is here referring to two sides of the same coin (cf. Newman & Nida 1973:201). Ito (2006:250) concurs: ‘They are the two aspects of the saving faith, two sides of one coin’.

While the three key terms of Romans 1:16–17, ‘faith’, ‘righteousness’ and ‘salvation’, are repeated here, the three ‘new’ terms that are added or introduced are ‘profess’, ‘mouth’ and ‘heart’. With reference to the heading of this passage, containing πίστεως δικαιοσύνη, we find that only ‘believe’ (‘have faith’) forms part of the first part of the chiasm (a–b–c–d), while ‘righteousness’ is introduced in the second part together with believe. Much in line with the discussion above, ‘salvation/will be saved’ forms the centrepiece of the structure (σωθήση) and also ends the structure with σωτηρίαν:

Passage	Righteous/ness	Faith	Salvation
Romans 1:16–17	the righteous person	out/because of faith	will live
Romans 10:6a, 8b–10	the righteousness	out of faith means	you will be saved

Conclusion

Romans 1:16–17 and 10:6a, 8b–10 are two outstanding passages in this letter of Paul. In both these passages, in quite different ways, Paul reaches the same conclusion. The focal point of Romans 1:16–17 lies in the last statement in verse 17. The focus of Romans 10:6a, 8b–10 lies in the combination of the so-called heading and the centrepiece.

Both these passages therefore state unequivocally that when God puts someone in the right relation to him, that person will live – will be saved. Because righteousness comes from faith (out of faith), the order is actually as follows:

Πίστις → δικαιοσύνη → σωτηρία
Faith → righteousness → salvation

In the *Propositio*, specifically Romans 1:16, Paul refers to the gospel of God as his power, by which he saves every believer. In verse 17 Paul supplies the reason for this statement by relating that God’s righteousness is revealed in the gospel.¹⁶ The revelation of God’s righteousness is linked to the enduring faith of the believers, which means: God will save the person who has this righteousness in her or him (the one whom God has put in a right relationship with himself because of her or his faith) – that person will live (eternally – Macknight 1809), implying that God will save that person.¹⁷ The link between faith, righteousness and salvation is therefore very strong in these two verses – from the view of the gospel.

In Romans 10:6a Paul again links righteousness to faith by stating that righteousness for mankind has faith as its source (righteousness out of faith). However, where Paul has referred in Romans 1:16–17 to the εὐαγγέλιον [the word of God that he has given to people, therefore the word of God received by people], in Romans 10:8b he refers to the ῥῆμά [the word of God spoken or professed by people]. Where Paul has characterised the εὐαγγέλιον in Romans 1:16–17 as the power of God, because his righteousness shines through the gospel and is revealed in constant faith, the spoken word of Romans 10 is located in(side) the believer – in the mouth and the heart. Paul then explicates what he means by using these two

16.Käsemann (1980:22) makes a strong case for the fact that *gospel* is more than the message actualized in the church. It is God’s declaration of salvation to the world ... It can thus be called δύναμις γὰρ θεοῦ.

17.This seems to be in stark contradiction to Romans 2:6, where Paul states clearly: ὁς ἀποδώσει ἐκάστῳ κατὰ τὰ ἔργα αὐτοῦ [Who (referring to God) will recompense everybody according to what they have done]. According to Newman and Nida (1973:35), Paul pictures no contradiction here with what he has stated in Romans 1 and in the rest of his letter. ‘What they have done’ refers to obedience to the law. Dunn (1982:3 of 16) confirmed this premise satisfactorily, stating that for ‘the 1st-century Judaism everything was an elaboration of the fundamental axiom that the one God had chosen Israel to be his peculiar people, to enjoy a special relationship under his rule. The law had been given as an expression of this covenant, to regulate and maintain the relationship established by the covenant. So, too, righteousness must be seen in terms of this relationship, as referring to conduct appropriate to this relationship, conduct in accord with the law [emphasis added]’.

‘instruments’: Because the focus in this passage is on the spoken word, it relates to the heart and the mouth (lips) of the believer. By using the extended parallelism-cum-chiasm structure in Romans 10:9–10, he puts emphasis on the fact that salvation is borne out of profession and faith. The chiasm a–c (ὁμολογήσης; πιστεύσης) and c–a (γὰρ πιστεύεται; δὲ ὁμολογεῖται), as indicated in the structure above in verses 9–10, is, according to Käsemann (1980:291), ‘the summary of faith for the believer’.

According to Garlington (2008:38; cf. also Dunson 2011:28), Romans 10:10 connects to Romans 1:16, where both concentrate on the will to confess (cf. Stuhlmacher 1966:78 in fn. 8), over against a refusal to confess, referred to by Paul as ‘shame’ (Rm 1:16). Garlington (2008) elaborates on his statement:

Judaism was a confessing religion, and to confess oneself to be Jewish was to commit oneself to the ideal of Israel as a social, political and religious *ethnos* (*his emphasis*); and it is precisely this which calls forth Paul’s declaration that he is not ashamed of the gospel, i.e., he confesses it. (p. 39)

Faith–righteousness–salvation is the focal point for every Christian believer – whether it was during the days that the Bible was written (or even before that, when the people *only* had Yahweh to believe in) or today, where Christians all over the world are so divided because of dogma. Maybe every believer should go back to the book of Romans and read it as it was written – with a passion for Christ. This will make us look past our small dogmatic differences and bring us to the confession: For I am not ashamed of the gospel (I therefore profess the gospel), because it is the power of God to the salvation of every believer.

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