

Romans Chapter Ten Part Two

In the following verses Paul explains how God brings people to faith in Jesus Christ. He also says Israel has no excuse for its' unbelief. The gospel message had spread widely. Israel had heard and for the most part rejected The Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:14-21

14How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed?

In verse 13 Paul said whoever calls on the name of the Lord would be saved. However, no one can call on the Lord Jesus for salvation unless they have been moved by God to believe in Him. If you do not believe Jesus Christ died for your sins and that he rose from the dead you will never call on him for salvation. Why call on someone that you do not believe in?

If my house catches fire...Lord forbid...I am not going to rush to the phone and call the cashier from the BP. I will not call her because I don't believe she can help me with my most pressing need.

So also, if many Jews do not believe Jesus Christ can save them, they are not going to call out to him.

How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard?

Paul is leading up to verses 17 and 18. God's plan for communicating his plan of salvation to those who will believe is by the written and spoken word of God. Verse 17 says; "faith comes by hearing."

And how will they hear without a preacher?

One of the primary purposes of the preacher is to guard the doctrine so that the plan of salvation is clearly and accurately communicated. The preacher communicates God's plan of salvation by explaining the bible and by training others to do the same.

If Israel had no preachers they would have had a great excuse for their unbelief. But God never rolls out a plan without explaining himself. God has explained his plan of salvation through the preacher and his disciples.

15How will they preach unless they are sent?

There can be no call, no belief, no hearing, no preaching, unless there are those sent to share the Good News. The Greek word for “preach” (kerusso) is not limited to the Sunday morning sermon; rather, it means to announce or proclaim something. All believers are sent to announce this Good News. The process of salvation begins with a person who is sent to others to share the Good News.

THE MISSIONAL CHURCH – THE NATURE OF SENDING

God is a missional God. His mission is to glorify himself by spreading the knowledge of his nature and his image in this world. He accomplished this in three great phases of history.

1. The Father sent his Son
2. The Father and Son sent his Spirit
3. The Father, Son and Spirit sent his church (all Christians)

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IS COMMISSIONED

Every member of the church has been sent and commissioned by Jesus to tell other people about God’s plan of salvation. If you do not tell people about salvation through Jesus Christ then you are disobedient to what Jesus has called you to do. There is really no way to soften this truth. We live in a phase of history where we are God’s plan to spread his fame and glory and good news. There is no back up plan for your neighbor. There is no back up plan for your co-worker. Telling your friends and family about Jesus is God’s one and only plan. If you believe in Jesus you are on. You are a

missionary. You have been sent. And here is what God thinks of you when you share the good news with other people.

Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"

When Jesus looks at the calluses and dirt on the feet of those who travel with good news he sees something very beautiful. I think of the disciples who were commissioned by Jesus to walk many miles to tell people about the good news of salvation. He saw how precious those feet were. He told his disciples that if the message were rejected they should shake the dust of their feet in the town as a sign of judgment. The feet that carry the good news bring both a message of hope and a warning of God's wrath.

BEAUTIFUL ARE THE WORN OUT TIRES

In a modern day application I remember traveling in central Mexico with missionaries. They drove their old car way beyond the expiration date. The tires were bald and the threads were showing through. And I thought, hey, the tread of those tires were spent on bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to this country. Those old tires were absolutely beautiful.

Our tires last between 20 and 40 thousand miles. It is beautiful when some of that tread is worn out on the way to visit and make friends of those who do not know the Lord. It cost 5-7 cents per minute for local long distance. How wonder it is when some of that expense goes toward encouraging someone to follow the Lord. Groceries cost a lot of money in town. But that meal shared with a neighbor is a beautiful thing to the Lord. These are some of the beautiful feet moments of our time.

16However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?"

The failure of Jews to respond to God's warnings of impending judgment was true in Isaiah's day. So also, many Jews did not accept the gospel of Jesus Christ.

SHARING IS NOT GUARANTEEING

Bringing people good news does not guarantee a positive response. But we know what happened to us when we received Jesus as our Lord and Savior and that helps us care about those who do not know him. When we look at someone who does not know the Lord, we can complain about his or her behavior. But what were we like before we knew the Lord? When we see non-Christians we have to see them with the eyes of Jesus. Jesus loves non-Christians enough to die for them even before they get their life straightened up. We are not held responsible for how others respond, but if we love Jesus and have his love in our hearts we will be glad to share the good news with others.

I don't know about you, but it can be very discouraging to tell people about Jesus and invite people to come hear about Jesus at the church only to be rejected or ignored. We have to stay motivated because if we stop sharing, people have no means of hearing the good news of salvation.

I am excited to see the Brewers starting out the baseball season strong. But I have to admit that I was just about ready to give up being a baseball fan. When you lose year after year it is disheartening. It is hard to keep going when you don't have many victory stories.

BATTING 1 FOR A 1000 IS STILL A WIN

I probably strike out 100 times for every person who comes to Christ. Why do I keep playing hard: because, it is not a game. This is a matter of life and death. Our witness is about the forever destination of a soul. I do not want to face the Lord and tell him that I was too timid or discouraged to tell

people about Jesus. It is ok even if you go 1 for 1000. That is one more soul God saved forever through your witness. And it is also 999 people that were adequately warned so that we have a clear conscience when they do not choose Christ. At least that is the way I look at it. The going and telling is on you but the results are on him.

17So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

People need to hear the Good News of salvation in Christ in order to believe it. Faith comes from hearing. Jesus could have chosen to stay on earth after his resurrection and preach to the world himself. You and I are God's voice on earth by which people will hear the story of Jesus.

18But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have;

The message had been preached far and wide; first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles. Paul quotes from Psalm 19:4

**"THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH,
AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD."**

When Luke ended the book of Acts Paul was in Rome. By this time Paul and the apostles had taken the gospel to as much of the earth as they could reach. At this time in history, the Good News had been preached to Jews and Gentiles for about twenty years, and it had spread throughout the Mediterranean areas where Jews lived.

There may have been some Jews who truly had not yet heard, but to use that as an excuse for the large number of Jews who had rejected the gospel did not sit well with Paul.

19But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says,

"I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A

NATION, BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU."

Paul's point is that the people of Israel knew the gospel message. They heard the message from the apostles and the preachers. They heard the message from Christians who were telling friends and neighbors about Jesus. The failure of large number of Jews to come to Christ had nothing to do with a failure to hear the message. There must be another explanation. Paul sees this explanation in the prophecy of Isaiah.

The words; "a nation that is not a nation is a reference to gentiles." The gentiles were not a single nation; they consisted of everyone who was not part of the Jewish nation.

The Jews would be envious that God would offer salvation to the world at large and not just to his chosen people. They would be angry that God would accept the pagan peoples whom they considered to have no understanding. In all of this, God's purpose would not be to reject his people, but to cause them to return to him.

REAL LIFE PROVOKES REAL JEALOUSY

Today God uses jealousy to sort out matters of life and death. One religious person prays memorized prayers, takes communion and is baptized into the church and thinks he or she is right with God. But that religious person gets jealous when he sees someone who jumps through none of these religious hoops but somehow they glow with the love of Jesus. In times of difficulty they have a peace that passes all human understanding. God uses that jealousy to bring people away from empty dead religion into a true saving faith in Jesus Christ.

HOW DO I SHARE MY FAITH?

The bible has made it clear about what we are called to do. We are called to share our faith with other people. But I would be a bad preacher if I did not tell you how to do what God has called us to do. Here are a few ideas that will help you share your faith with other people.

THE ROMANS ROAD
(GOOD FOR THE RELIGIOUS LOST)

Romans 3

²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Romans 10

⁹That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

YOUR STORY
(GOOD FOR SECULAR LOST)

Think about your testimony. Write it out if you need to. Try to come up with a very concise account of how you came to faith in Jesus Christ. You might even come up with a short version and a longer version. You want to include the following.

ORGANIZE YOUR STORY

- What was life like before Jesus (what was missing, what was problematic)?
- How did you find out about Jesus?
- How did God get you to the point that you were ready to listen?
- How did you pray to receive Jesus?
- What has Jesus done in your life? How has he changed you? How do you know for sure that you are saved?

ILLUSTRATIONS

(sharing the gospel without words)

EXAMPLES:

The wordless bracelet

The bridge illustration

NOTES AND IDEAS

Note: You will never lead someone to Christ unless he or she is being called and moved by the Holy Spirit. You will always be more effective if you ask God to show you which persons he is calling to salvation and then focus on them.

You have to have a non-Christian friend if you are going to share the gospel with anyone. To hang around non-Christians is part of the commission. You don't become like them. You don't participate in their sin. But love brings people to Jesus.

Close by reading the great commission