

Romans 10:14~17

How important is the “*Gospel of Christ?*” How important is the preaching and teaching of *God’s word?* I want to suggest unto you...the “*lives*” of men and women depend on it! The souls of all of mankind hang in the balance, dependant upon hearing this message.

Tragically, it is obvious that many churches do not see the importance of the preaching of the gospel. More and more are turning to entertainment, focusing on music and drama, and every other means imaginable to draw crowds. I’m telling you, I am deeply concerned with where the “*Church*” as a whole, is headed today. Even much of the “*preaching*” today is not really preaching. Much of what you hear today is, they will read a “*Verse,*” maybe two verses...then talk for about 20~25 minutes, telling all kinds of cute little stories, funny jokes, and never really tell their congregations what “*Thus Saith the Lord...*” A god called preacher is to “*preach the word!*” My job is not to come up with cute or interesting sermons! God forbid! Every sermon, every message I’ll ever preach has already been written by the Lord God himself. My job is to proclaim “*his message*” to all who will listen! When God called me, all he wanted was a MOUTH! He didn’t want my intelligence, he didn’t chose me because I understood more than others, God simply called me, and set me aside, to serve Him by proclaiming His words!

Beloved, it’s important we understand the importance of the teaching and preaching of this word, the preaching of the gospel. The lives of all men depend on it! At the beginning of this book, Paul declares... “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the POWER of God unto salvation to every one that believes...” God has chosen “by the foolishness of preaching” to save them that believe.”

Here Paul asks a series of rhetorical questions to emphasize the important of both the “*message*” and the “*messenger*”...

¹⁴How then shall they **call on him** in whom they have not **believed**?
...and how shall they **believe** in him of whom they have **not heard**?
...and how shall they **hear** without a **preacher**?
...¹⁵And how shall they **preach**, except they **be sent**?

The emphasis is *on the message of Christ*, and *the one who proclaims* that message. Paul has just proclaimed, that the only means of escape from God’s wrath is for men to repent and turn to Jesus Christ. Whether you be Jew or Gentile, there’s no other way. Paul’s message of Christ declares that God has made it possible for all men, for any man to be saved, to escape the wrath of God. That way being, by believing on the Lord Jesus. By believing that He is the Son of God, that He came into this world born of a virgin, died on the cross for our sin, and was raised from the dead by the power of God.

Whoever...⁹...shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, shall... *escape God’s wrath.*

¹³***For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall...*escape God’s wrath.****

Which causes Paul to ask the question...¹⁴How then shall they **call on him** in whom they have not **believed**? In order to “*call on Him*” they must first believe that He is the Messiah, and before they can believe He is Messiah, they must “*hear the claims,*” and how shall they hear the facts, if someone doesn’t “*proclaim*” it to them, and who will proclaim this truth of God, other than the one God has chosen and commissioned.

What’s all this mean?

Men are saved through “*hearing the preaching of the Gospel*” and *believing it.* (*Faith*)

(Vs 17) ¹⁷ *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Nearly every other translation, says “*word of Christ*” or “*Message of Christ,*” which is more accurate. It is a reference to the “*gospel of Christ.*” Paul’s message has come full circle...back in 1:16, Paul declares...

¹⁶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for **it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth**;*

In order to be saved, men **MUST hear the gospel of Christ**, and believe it, by repenting and yielding one’s life to Christ as Lord and Savior!

God is so wise...He has devised a way, that there is not the “*slightest fiber*” of man’s effort involved in his salvation. It is completely without him. There is NOTHING he can do. In order to be saved, the requirement is first that he must HEAR the gospel! This requires someone outside himself, someone must tell him. No one will be saved outside of hearing the gospel message! (*Emphasizes importance of witnessing.*)

Listen very closely... If people do not “*Hear*” the clear, message of Christ, it is IMPOSSIBLE for them to be saved.

In order to hear it...someone must proclaim it to them. (That’s were WE come in.) Once they have “*heard it,*” they become accountable as to what they do with it. They do one of only two things, they will either “BELIEVE” it, manifested by repentance, and living a life of following Christ, or they will “NOT BELIEVE,” manifest by continuing to live for self. And this is where there is a great DANGER... That doesn’t mean, that to simply “go to church” makes you alright with God. For the same thing is taking place here with Israel. They attended synagogue, they believed the bible to be God’s word, etc... The gospel is a call of God for men to repent, to return from living unto self, it is a call for men to yield their “*lives*” unto God! To stop living in transgression against God.

Here in verses 14~17, the obvious emphasis is on the importance of mankind “*hearing of the word*” or the message of Christ. Unless they “*hear it and believe,*” they will perish! If that be the case, there must be one to proclaim that message, and in order for one to **proclaim the message** of God, he must be **sent of God**. Paul says all that to suggest, that’s exactly what Isaiah said...

Here in verse 15, Paul quotes from Isaiah 52:7...

⁷ *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that brings good tidings, that publishes peace; that brings good tidings of good, that publishes salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigns!*

Paul declares that Isaiah was referring to the “*preachers of the gospel!*” Paul declares Isaiah’s words to be prophetic words, speaking of a time when God would send messengers, preaching the good news of Christ! Declaring that through Christ, men can have “*peace*” with God...

Read (IS. 52:1~10) ...and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The “*Message*” of these men is what is referred to as beautiful...the things these men are proclaiming, that being the salvation of Israel, Israel’s deliverance. These men would be proclaiming from the mountains surrounding Jerusalem, would be the “*good news*” of Israel’s redemption! Their message would be that of “*peace,*” that of “*good,*” proclaiming the “*salvation*” of Israel! *Thy God reigns!* Refers to the might of God, in bringing this about! God will do this, and the whole world will bear witness, that the God of Israel, He alone is God!

Paul refers to Isaiah’s words as a reference to the “*preaching of the gospel of Christ!*” Preaching the promise of “*Peace with God*” through his blood, the promise of “*Good*” to God’s people through his grace, the promise of “*Salvation*” through his death, burial and resurrection!

Knowing that the Jews would argue with Paul, that this was not what Isaiah was speaking too, that “*such news*” would be REJECTED by Israel, Paul quotes from chapter 53, to show that Isaiah prophesied that few would “BELIEVE” the message they were proclaiming...

¹*Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?*

Paul points out that Isaiah himself wrote that many would not believe the preachers! He almost insinuates that he’s having difficulty finding any that believe it. Again, it shows that it was prophesied that Israel would “**Reject**” Christ...

The most interesting part is, what immediately follows Isaiah’s question...

¹*Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?*

²*...For **he** shall grow up before him as a tender plant...*

Read Isaiah 53:1~12... **The suffering servant**... The detail and accuracy in which Isaiah describes the events of the crucifixion are inconceivable! There’s no other way to explain it other than God described to Israel exactly what would happen, before it happened.

A correct understanding of Romans 10:15~16, is to understand that Paul is pointing to that fact that Isaiah prophesied both the message of Christ crucified, and the means by which God would proclaim that message, God sent preachers. Taken as a whole, chapters 52 & 53 of Isaiah foretell of a coming day when men would stand on the mountains surrounding Jerusalem, proclaiming the crucifixion of Christ! Men that Paul refers to here as preachers! Men sent by God, to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ. Which was fulfilled in men like Peter, Paul, John, etc...and continue unto this day.

Up to this point, God’s plan of salvation had included the “*Patriarchs*,” the leaders of Israel; it included “*Prophets*,” those who gave us the Holy Scripture, declaring unto the world the words of God. It involved “*Rabbi and Priest*,” which were given to oversee the temple worship and the sacrifices, and to instruct the people in the word of God. Then came Jesus, prophet, priest and king, the master teacher, the great high priest, the master rabbi. Then came the final aspect to God’s plan...the *preacher*. God called men, chosen and called out by God himself, sent by God, to proclaim the gospel of Christ!

Here in Romans, Paul is declaring to Israel, that both he and his message are the fulfillment of Isaiah’s words... That God has “*Called out and sent*” preachers to proclaim to all of Israel, that the suffering servant of Is. 53, is none other than Jesus Christ. Preaching a message of good news, that in Christ, God offers peace, in Christ God offers the kingdom of God, that in Christ, God offers Salvation to all who will believe and place their trust in him.

Just because Israel as a whole rejected Him, only serves to further validate his claims...Isaiah prophesied that very few would believe these preachers...

(Ro.10:16) ⁶*But they have not all **obeyed the gospel**. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?*

Notice, Paul refers to Isaiah’s words as the gospel! (Isaiah 53, *Christ crucified*)

...*For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?* Insinuating that it was difficult to find any. Such was the case with Israel. Here in Romans, Paul declares that a “*small remnant*” believed on Christ.

But even so, he must steadfastly continue to preach Christ, and him crucified! For there is NO OTHER WAY for men to be saved... There is NO OTHER WAY ordained by God for men to escape the WRATH of God...other than “hearing” the gospel of Christ, repenting, and yielding their life to Christ.

(Vs 12~15) ¹²*For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.* ¹³*For **whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*** ¹⁴*How*

then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵And how shall they preach, except they be sent?

¹⁷So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

All who “hear” and believe will be saved... *The just shall live by faith...*

But all who hear the gospel, and reject it by continuing to live for self... will perish...

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

If you have heard the gospel...if you know the claims of Jesus is Lord, and continue to live in your own will, not repenting and living your life unto Christ, you will die in your sins, undergo the judgment of God, and suffer the wrath of God.