

Romans 10:18~21, part 2

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

Or a better translation may be, the “*word of Christ...*” Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the message of Christ. Which simply refers to the *revealing of Christ*, as written in the Law and the Prophets, (O.T.) When the O.T. scriptures are proclaimed in light of Jesus Christ, the result is understanding. The more one hears, the more understanding, thus there comes a point, that a person “*believes*” that Christ truly is the promised Messiah of God. Again, I think it’s important to stress, that “*faith*” is not a “*blind hope*,” *faith* is not some “*Well wishing*.”

EX: Jumping off roof... “*I have faith that I can do it...*” No matter how much “*faith*” he may have, the “*fact*” of gravity will convince him otherwise. What that man considered to be “*faith*,” was not faith, but would be better described as “*foolishness*.” “*Faith*” is not “*Well wishing*,” some “*Hope so*” thing. Nor does it influenced by “*determination*” or “*how much you believe it*”...

FAITH is something that comes as a result of the “*Facts*.” Faith is a product of revealed truth. Faith is not “*empty hope*” but rather faith is based on “*facts, on truths*.” In order for faith to be produced, you must have both a claim, and then the fulfillment of that claim. When those two things come about, faith is produced.

Listen, the O.T. writings are the claims of God and Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of those claims. When Christ is preached, he is to be preached as the fulfillment of God’s testimony, God’s word! The interesting thing about this is, it’s all of God. The faith that produces salvation is entirely the work of God... God spoke it through called prophets over thousands of years, taught it through called teachers and preachers, in that, all that is required to attain salvation is to LISTEN! The more you listen to the scriptures explained in light of Christ, the more convinced you become. Simply by “*Hearing*” the word, God is creating Faith in us...

Faith is based on Facts... “*Faith in Christ*” comes about by hearing the scripture preached in light of Jesus Christ. That being the case...what happened to Israel? Why did they reject Jesus? Did they not hear? Did they not know? Those are the questions Paul seeks to answer in this section.

Here in chapter 9~11, Paul explains Israel’s rejection of Christ, *as it relates* to God’s plan of salvation. Paul declares here, that the “*Fall of Israel*” and the “*Salvation of the Gentiles*” was a fulfillment of prophecy. Paul has declared that the Gentiles had attained “*right standing*” with God by “*faith*” in the Lord Jesus Christ... Knowing that, if the Gentiles were made right with God by “*faith*,” and as Paul has explained here in verse 17, “*Faith comes by hearing...*” the natural question that comes is, **Did Israel not hear? Did they fail to attain because they did not hear?**

Not at all...Israel heard the message loud and clear! Paul’s answer is a quotation from Psalms 19:4...
Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

A statement made by King David referring to the fact that there is not a single person on earth, there’s not one person in the world who hasn’t “*heard*” the message of God. For God has seen to it, by declaring it through His creation. Back in Romans 1, Paul pointed to the earth and how it declares God, and here, he is referring to the heavens, and the message they declare about God. Every single night, the heavens declare God’s glory and Majesty, while every single day, the firmament declares His handy-work. All around us, we see the incredible display of God’s design, His wisdom...

(Illustration: Cell Phone... Design, wisdom, that went into making this phone...)

You ever thought about it’s designer, its creator? Same is true with many in relation with God. They go about enjoying all the benefits and goodness of God and His creation, yet giving Him no thought.

T ALL “*Have Heard*”...The message is never ceasing, night and day, creation proclaims the glory and splendor of God! But in spite of this universal message that sounds out day and night throughout the entire world, most people “*ignore it,*” and reject God because they want to live as they please.

Like everyone else in this world, Israel “*heard*” the message... As a matter of fact, Israel the more so. They not only heard the “*Testimony of Creation,*” they also had the “*Testimony of Scripture!*” Something that the Gentiles didn’t have.

(Vs 15~16) Paul had just made reference to the prophetic words of Isaiah... Those two verses are taken from Isaiah 52 and 53. In Isaiah 52, Paul points out that Isaiah prophesied the “*Preaching of Christ Crucified.*” That there would be “preachers” standing round about Jerusalem proclaiming the “*Suffering servant*” of Isaiah 53! A very accurate and detailed account of the death of messiah. But Paul as makes clear, Isaiah declared that very, very few would believe the message!

When you consider the context of Paul’s reference to Psalms 19 here in Romans, it seems to suggest that not only of the testimony of creation, but it seems that Paul takes that TRUTH declared there and declares the same is true with the gospel. Notice in verse 16, Paul refers to Isaiah 53 as the “*gospel.*” That ALL of Israel had “*heard*” the gospel, because All of Israel had heard the words of Isaiah 53...the suffering servant!

Had Israel heard? Did Israel not Know? **Absolutely!** They not only had the “*Testimony of Creation,*” but Israel also had the “*Testimony of Scripture!*” No one on earth had “*heard*” more, no one on earth “***Knew***” more than Israel! But even with all that knowledge...they still rejected Christ. While the Gentiles, who didn’t have the “written testimony” of God, who had not knowledge of the scripture, received on Christ.

Here in verses 19~21, Paul says, “*Which is exactly what Moses and Isaiah both said would happen...*” (Vs 19) ¹⁹*But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.*

This is a reference to Deuteronomy 32:21... Because of Israel’s disobedience, and harlotry... God declared that he would “Forsake them” as well. That he would “leave them” and go unto another nation.

(Vs 20~21) ²⁰*But Esaias is very bold, (Very CLEAR) and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. ²¹But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.*

This is a reference to Isaiah 65:1~2... Paul clarifies to what Isaiah meant, and to whom he was speaking too. Paul tells us, that Isaiah was speaking to the Gentiles in verse 1, and then to Israel in verse 2...

(Isaiah 65) ¹*I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name.*

“*I am found of them that sought me not:*” Speaking through the prophet Isaiah, God said he would be found among “a people” that never sought Him...to a “nation” that was not called by my name.” That term “*called by my name*” is a reference to Israel, “*God’s chosen people!*” God told Abraham, that out of his seed would come a nation that would number as the stars. Abraham begat Isaac, and Isaac begat Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel... The “Children of Israel” are the promised seed of Abraham, the nation that God said he would bring forth to be “*His people.*” It was this same people who found themselves in bondage to the Egyptians, as slaves. Which is where Moses comes in, God called Moses on Mt. Horeb, and sends him to deliver Israel from the hands of the Egyptians. Which God delivered with a mighty hand! It was on their journey from Egypt to the land of Canaan, that God delivered “*The Law*” to

Moses on Mt. Horeb. It was on that day, that God entered into “*a covenant*” with Israel, that He would be their God, and they His people... And so it was, from that day forth, God’s presence went with Israel.

Here in Isaiah, the Lord declares that He would be God to *another nation besides Israel*. He would be found among a nation that never sought Him, or had anything to do with Him.

The “*picture*” that is painted here through the words of Moses and Isaiah...

Is that of God “*leaving Israel*” for this other nation!

And the reason He does so, is NOT because God is “*Unfaithful...*” but is “*Israel*” who is “*unfaithful!*”
²*I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walks in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;*

Isaiah writes, that the Lord had done all He could, He’d “*spread out His hands to them,*” which signifies that He pleaded with Israel to return...but they would not... And that as a result of their rebellion, God would “*leave them alone...*” As a result of their rebellion against God, He would turn them over to their own ways.

It describes a point in which God says, if they refuse to honor me as their God, and insist on following their own ways...so be it. I will find myself another people, another nation, who will...

(Read Deuteronomy 32:19~21) Here we see the same thing, but there their rebellion is more explicitly described in the context of “*Adultery.*” There Moses was declaring that Israel would “*play the harlot*” with the other nations, with “*other Gods,*” after Moses had died. Here, Moses declares that God is a “*Jealous God*” and that by their harlotry, Israel would provoke God to judgment! That as a result of Israel’s “*Unfaithfulness,*” with these “*other gods,*” that God would sever His relationship with them, and enter a relationship with another people, another nation. A nation not called by His name, a people outside the nation Israel.

Paul declares, that both Moses and Isaiah was speaking about the Gentiles...

Remember, in **Romans 9:30**...³⁰*What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.*

(Ro. 11:11) ¹¹*I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.*

¹⁸*But I say, Have they not heard? Yes...* ¹⁹*But I say, Did not Israel know? Yes...*

Truth is... Israel had heard... Israel knew... Israel simply didn’t want Him...

Like it is with so many today, they chose rather to give themselves to the things of this world, to give their hearts to “*mammon,*” the riches of this world, rather than to the God.

(John 1:11) *Jesus came unto “His own...” and “His own received Him not...”*

What a “*picture*” we see... God was not unfaithful, God loved Israel... So much so, that he sent His son into the world to die for them... God had done everything He could to reach Israel, but Israel would not have it... God did not “*reject Israel,*” Israel “*rejected God.*”

He came unto His Own...and His Own received Him not... But the Gentiles gladly received Him! Beloved, by “*Receiving Christ,*” the Gentiles became the “*People of God!*” As a result of Israel’s “*rebellious heart,*” because they would not “*submit*” themselves to God, because they “*insisted*” on living their lives to their own will’s...Being the Gentleman that He is, God graciously “*backed off...*”