

The Necessity of Gospel Proclamation

Romans 10:14-17

June 30, 2021

Review and Context

Theme of Romans: The gospel of God (1:16-17)

Chs 9-11 The gospel and Israel

- In 9:1-5, the apostle in a very personal way introduced the problem (from the human standpoint) of Israel's unbelief (rejection of the Messiah)
- *Thesis:* 9:6a "But it is not as though the word of God has failed."
 - The OT's numerous promises to the nation of Israel, of spiritual salvation through the Messiah
 - Examples include Deut 30:6; Eze 36:24-28; Jer 31:31-36; Zech 12:10-13:1
- The apostle proves that the word of God has not failed, using five arguments.
 - The first argument centers on God's sovereign election of some individuals and not others (9:6b-29)
 - The second argument centers on Israel's reliance on works rather than faith (9:30-10:21).
 - Israel is responsible for their failure to believe in Christ

Question: What does 10:14-17 teach is necessary in order for a person to be saved?

The necessity of preaching the gospel (14-15)

14 "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? ..."

- Refers back to verses 12-13 about calling on the Lord Jesus Christ

14 "...And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? ..."

14 "...And how are they to hear without someone preaching?"

- The word 'preaching' means the action of a herald, someone who is given a message by a higher authority and instructed to proclaim it

15 “And how are they to preach unless they are sent? ...”

1. Christ has sent all His disciples
 - **Matt. 28:18–20** “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”
 - **Acts 1:8** “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
2. The apostles were sent in a special sense. All Christ’s disciples have been sent in a more general sense.

15b “As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’”

1. Isaiah 52:7
 - *Question:* What comes just a few stanzas later in Isaiah?
2. Paul gives Scriptural confirmation that God’s plan includes the sending of preachers with the good news

This is God’s plan for the salvation of His elect throughout the world

1. There is no plan B!
2. The distribution of the Scriptures by Christ’s disciples, and evangelism are absolutely necessary

The failure of Israel to believe the gospel (16)

“they have not all obeyed the gospel”

1. In context, “they” is Israel (9:30-32; 10:3, 20-21)
2. The gospel commands faith and repentance
 - **Acts 17:30b–31** “but now [God] **commands** all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

16b “For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?’”

1. *Question:* This quotation contains two key words from the previous verses. What words are they?
2. Isaiah 53:1 (context is 52:13-53:3)
3. Israel’s hearing of the gospel, and refusal to believe it, were prophesied

The necessity of hearing the gospel (17)

This verse solidifies what the apostle has been saying in this paragraph, and leads into what Paul will emphasize in the next paragraph that Israel has heard the gospel.

Faith requires hearing a message. That hearing comes through the proclamation of the word of Christ.

“the word of Christ”

- The good news about Christ, which Christ has sent His disciples to proclaim

Salvation is received by faith in the word of Christ, the gospel.

A clear message which gives understanding of the truth must precede saving faith.

“hearing”

- The gospel is a verbal message, not a visual display

This passage mandates evangelism, and reveals its purpose

1. The purpose is not to use cleverness to manipulate confessions of faith
2. The purpose is to faithfully proclaim the saving word of Christ, through which the Holy Spirit powerfully brings conviction and salvation to those who hear and believe

Conclusion

Question: How should this passage affect our lives as Christians?