

Presenting the Gospel

Romans 10:12-17

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on 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? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

If God had chosen to he could've sent angels to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

If God had wanted to he could've wrote the gospel in the sky or he could a given man an inner voice that just told him about the plan of salvation.

1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

The idea is that to the world preaching seems to be so foolish. Especially in our day and age.

What a grand privilege we have to be a part of the master plan of God to bring Christ to the world.

- I. The gospel is free to all.
 - A. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek,
 - 1. God never draws distinctions were man does.
 - 2. God can work in the heart of the New York socialite as well as in a skid row bum.
 - 3. Scripture tells us that God looks upon the heart and not on the outward appearance.
 - 4. So then black and white rich and poor noble and plain none of these things mean anything to God.
 - 5. Whether you're educated or illiterate God works in each according to his plan.
 - B. For the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.
 - 1. God does not treat one group better than another. Those people who would divide us up into factions are not doing the will of God.
 - 2. He is the same Lord over all Annie is rich to all those that call upon him regardless of what station in life they came from.
 - C. For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

1. So it literally is “whoever” calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.
2. We should never look at any individual regardless of how disgusting and sinful they are and think God cannot touch their lives.
3. Paul tells us that he was the chief of sinners and that God changed him.
4. So no matter what you've done or where you've been, if you will call upon him he will save you.
5. The problem is that sinners say to themselves I've got to become like these church people before God will take me in.
6. But the truth of the matter is that these church people were once what you are.
7. But in simple faith they called out to Christ and he took all of their sins away.

II. The mechanics of the gospel.

A. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?

1. Paul wants us now to understand the mechanics of the gospel, how does it work.
2. Well, it is so simple that it is obvious.
3. People cannot call upon a God or a Savior that they do not believe in.
4. In Christianity faith always has an object and that object is Jesus Christ and his sacrifice for us.
5. So then they must believe before they can call.

B. And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?

1. In order to believe one must have heard the gospel.
2. I know that seems obvious but sometimes the obvious is overlooked.
3. This is one of the reasons why a printed material and radio broadcast into foreign countries where Christianity is not allowed is so important.
4. And there are marvelous stories about how God has brought a person to hear the gospel so that he could save him or her.

C. And how shall they hear without a preacher?

1. But Paul moves a step further, how can they hear without a preacher.
2. This is why we support missionaries the foreign fields.
3. When Jesus came to earth he selected 12 men to be his disciples in order that they might preach as he had preached.

4. That is why everywhere the Paul went he had a group of preachers with him, fellow missionaries.
- D. And how shall they preach unless they are sent?
1. Do you remember Jesus telling the disciples that they should pray to the Lord of the harvest that he should send forth laborers into the harvest?
 2. God is the Lord of the harvest and those who proclaim the gospel are his laborers.
 3. The field is not ours, the harvest is not ours, and even the message is not ours. We are only tools in the master's hands.
 4. So when God wanted to convert the Ninevites he sent Jonah. He called him, commissioned him, and sent him to Nineveh.
 - a. It did not make any difference what Jonah wanted, he was but a servant.
 - b. And Jonah wasn't very excited over a happy but eventually he went.
 - c. And although he seemed to preach a lackluster message yet the Ninevites were converted.
 5. When God was ready to open up the gospel to the Gentiles he called Peter to go to the house of Cornelius and there to preach the gospel.
 6. When God needed to convert the Gentiles he called a Pharisee named Saul and changed his name to Paul and sent him into all the world even to Rome.
 7. And so 1000 stories could be told, 10,000 stories, of how God has called men to preach his word to a lost and dying world.
- E. As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"
1. Isaiah 52:7 (NKJV) 7 How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"
 2. Imagine yourself in some secluded part of the world that is never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. For 1000 generations before you your ancestors have worship stocks of wood and rocks for their idols. And then one day a missionary shows up in your village and he explains to you that there is a God who is the God of all. And that this God is a holy God and requires holiness of all of us. And then he tells you that this God loves you, that he love you so much that he sent his only son to become a man in this world and to die and across so that you could be forgiven of everything that God

has against you. How beautiful are the feet who bring good news.

III. But back to the problem.

A. But they have not all obeyed the gospel.

1. Even though God is cared enough to send the preachers with the message yet many do not believe, how sad.
2. Jesus describes it this way he talks about a man who put on a wedding feast for his son and he invited all of his friends all of his neighbors, but they refused to come.
3. How sad that those who were called to the supper did not come. What will the father do? So he sends his preachers out into the fields, into the streets, and he calls the beggars, the homeless, the wanderer, saying come for all things are now ready, and they come. While those who had been invited to the feast originally were cast out.
4. The Jews, those who were first invited had on a wide scale rejected the gospel of their Messiah.

B. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?"

1. To substantiate his point Paul quotes from the prophet Isaiah chapter 53 verse 1.
2. It had been the problem of untold thousands of prophets and preachers that God had called over the centuries that those whom he had called would not believe.

C. So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1. So the formula is still simple but profound.
2. Faith comes by hearing the word of God.
3. I bought a systematic theology set by Paul Tillich, not something I would recommend for anyone, and I have went through it not exhaustively but pretty much and not found one Scripture reference in the entire work.
4. You see he doesn't say faith comes by hearing period.
5. But faith comes by hearing the word of God.
6. If all a preacher has is his thoughts, his words, then he might as well stay home.
7. God has not promised to convert the world through the philosophies of men.
8. But through his own word. The gospel of Jesus Christ.