

Romans

Chapter 10

Romans 10:1-4

“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

Paul's Heart

- Paul again shares his **heart's** burden for Israel.
- In Romans chapter **9:3**, Paul wished he was **accursed and cut off from Christ** and was willing to go to hell if only Israel would come to know Jesus as the Messiah.
- In **Romans 10:1**, Paul shares his **heart's desire** which inspires him to action to **pray to God** for Israel's salvation.
- “Our prayer lives tend to reveal what truly lies in our heads and hearts”-Keller, Timothy

- The **heart** in biblical terms is not merely our emotions but a deep center of all that **drives** our desires, our thoughts, our passions, our appetites, our affections, and our purposes.
- After a person comes to know Jesus and is filled with the Holy Spirit there is deep conviction of the **Father's heart** that all would come to Know His Son.
- “Thus when someone is born again, the Holy Spirit gives that person new Fatherhood desires, a new heavenward orientation...”-Whitney, Donald
- “This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who **desires** all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”-**1 Timothy 2:3-4**

Zeal For God

- Paul recognizes that the Jews had a **zeal for God** but their **zeal** was not **according to knowledge**.
- It is at this point that so many **religious people** go astray from knowing the truth rather than pressing deeper into the truth of the gospel.
- Some people may know certain **facts** about Jesus like that He came to earth and died upon the Cross. Some people may even be **zealous** about going to church every Sunday. Some people may even be **zealous** about certain traditions of the church.

- The result is a **self-centered** righteousness not a **God-centered** righteousness from the **heart** that is being **transformed** by the hearing of the gospel through the Word of God.
- It is a self-love disguised as a love for God.
- “But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be **lovers of self**...lovers of pleasure rather than **lovers of God**, having the **appearance** of godliness, but denying its **power**.”-2 Timothy 3:1-2a;4b-5
- The **power of God** is revealed in salvation (**Rom. 1:16**) and in the work of Christ upon the Cross.
- For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the **power of God**.”-1 Corinthians 1:18

- “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to **establish your tradition**...making void the word of God by **your tradition** that you have handed down.”-**Mark 7:9,13**
- “There is no other foundation for faith but [in God's Word]; and the faith that rests on any other foundation is not true faith at all. A faith resting on **human tradition**, or on the authority of a **Church**, is not **Divine faith**; it is mere superstition, it is a faith which stands on the wisdom of men, and not in the **power** of God (1 Corinthians 2:5)”-Bullinger, E.W.
- “For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. so that your faith might not rest in the **wisdom of men** but in the **power of God**.”-**1 Corinthians 2:2,5**

- We need to be careful today not to exchange the work of Jesus for our **own way** and call it **God's way** by placing the **traditions of man** above the work and **Word of God**.
- Careful not justify ourselves to be righteous by the traditions we hold in the church that have been established by man not God.
- The **gospel** transforms from the inside out, “In other words, it is not the mere act of going to church that does us good; it is the **gospel** we hear there. It is not the habit [tradition] itself that transforms but the **gospel of Christ**.”-Reeves, Michael

- According to Paul a person may have **zeal** for sincerely held beliefs yet at the same time be completely mistaken.
- The word that Paul uses here for **Knowledge** in the original is **Epiginosko** which means to **know** it so well that you know it **intimately**.
- It is a **knowledge** from a deep relationship with the Father not **according to facts** learned about Him but knowing Him deeply and relationally concerning His character in **truth** and **righteousness**.
- The opposite is to be **ignorant** to the righteousness that comes from God although can be deeply sincere.

- This goes against the culture of today which tells us that it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are **sincere**.
- “For [people] insist upon their **good intentions** with stiff-necked and obstinate opposition, just as though they could not be mistaken; they believe that their salvation is altogether based upon the fact that they have **good intentions** and zeal for God...but are perverse in heart and corrupt of mind.”-Luther, Martin
- **Zeal** that is not **according to knowledge** is fanatical and self centered driven by **what I want not what God desires**.

Ignorant to Righteousness

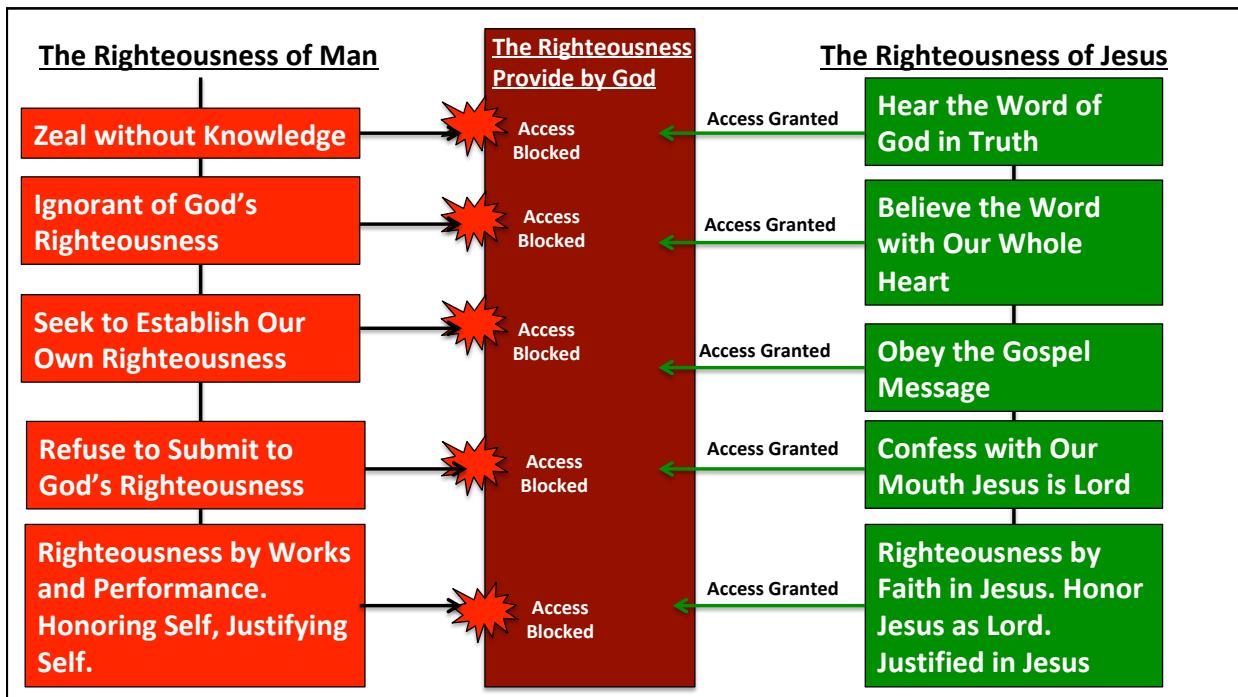
- **Ignorant to the righteousness of God** and the believer's position in Christ has through the centuries caused people to try to earn their righteousness through works.
- **Ignorant to the righteousness of God** in Jesus invariably produces a form of legalism which tries to earn "brownie points" with God and gain His acceptance.
- If a person is **ignorant** to the **righteousness of God** they will **seek to establish** a **righteousness** of their **own** making and **do not submit** to the **righteousness** provided for the believer in Jesus.

- What value does the engraved image have, that its maker has engraved it; the molten image, even the teacher of lies, that he who fashions its form trusts in it, to make mute idols?"- **Habakkuk 2:18**
- " Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. **Those who make them become like them**; so do all who trust in them."-**Psalm 115:4-8**
- It is too easy to fashion a belief system after our **own** making and feel safe but be totally **ignorant** to God and **His way**!

- “For the time is coming when people will not **endure sound teaching**, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to **suit their own passions**, and will turn away from **listening to the truth** and **wander off into myths.**”-**2 Timothy 3:4**
- This a big problem in our culture today. The Word of God is the most important truth given to man yet people have opinions based on their own ideas wandering of into myths.
- The word for **myths** in the original means a **falsely invented story** today we might call it a conspiracy theory.
- “For this is what the **LORD** said to me with great power, to keep me from going **the way** of this people: Do not call everything a **conspiracy** that these people say is a **conspiracy**. **Do not fear what they fear**; do not be terrified. You are to **regard only the LORD** of Armies as holy. Only he should be feared; only he should be held in awe.-**Isaiah 8:11-13**

- “O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called **‘knowledge’**, for by professing it some have swerved from the faith.”-**1 Timothy 6:20**
- Paul encouraged Timothy to distinguish between what comes from God **guard the deposit entrusted to you** and what comes from man **irreverent babble and contradictions** and to guard against **what is falsely called knowledge by** becoming enamored with what comes from man.
- A god in a box of our own making is not the God of the Bible and is **not according to knowledge** but is merely created to feed our **own** self-interests.
- A god who is concerned with **what I desire** but not what **He desires** causes an **ignorance** to the **righteousness of God**.

- Some people do not want Jesus to be the Author of their salvation.
- Some people want to write their own book of salvation for themselves not wanting to submit to God's righteousness.
- God will not read it! God only reads His perfect book written in the blood of His Son Jesus and the righteousness provided by Him.
- “In true faith, there is need of a great deal of **submission**.”-Henry, Matthew



End of the Law

- The Jews believed that their righteousness came from the Law even though they **pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law**.-Romans 9:31
- Here Paul tells us that **Christ is the end of the Law for everyone who believes**.
- The word for **end** is **telios** which means a **fulfillment of purpose**.
- “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to **fulfill** them.”-Matthew 5:17
- The Greek word used for **fulfill** here in Matthew means **to make complete in every particular way possible; to render perfect**.

- Jesus fulfilled the Law by his life, death, and resurrection because although the Law would **lead to righteousness** man being weak, ungodly, and sinful cannot **reach the perfect** standard of the Law.
- What does the Bible say about the Law of God:
- **The Law of God is holy, righteous and good.**
 - “So the law is **holy**, and the commandment is **holy** and **righteous** and **good**.”-Romans 7:12
- **The Law of God is truth.**
 - “Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is **true**.”-Psalm 119:142
- **The law of God is perfect.**
 - “The law of the LORD is **perfect**, **reviving the soul**...**making wise the simple**...**rejoicing the heart**...**enlightening the eyes**.-Psalm 19:7,8

- **The Law of God is light.**
 - “For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a **light**, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,”-**Proverbs 6:23**
- **The law of God is spiritual.**
 - “For we know that the law is **spiritual**, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.”-**Romans 7:12**
- **The Law of God is love.**
 - “Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”-**Romans 13:10**
- The law is not compelled to lower its terms, as though it had originally asked too much; it is holy and just and good, and ought not to be altered in one jot or tittle, nor can it be. Our Lord **gives the law all it requires**, not a part, for that would be an admission that it might justly have been content with less at first.”- Spurgeon, Charles

- “Is the law then **contrary** to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe....So then, the **law was our guardian until Christ came**, in order that we might be justified by faith.”-**Galatians 3:21-22,24**
- The Law was our **guardian** of behavior **until Christ came**.
- Morris translates guardian as custodian: “The custodian was not a teacher, but a slave whose special task was to **look after** a child. He exercised a general supervision over the boy’s activities, and it was his responsibility **to bring him to the teacher** who would give him the instruction that befitted his station.”-Morris, Leon

- Faith in the **work of Jesus** is the means by which a person is made righteous. The **Law** leads a person to **trust** in the **work of Jesus**.
- The **Law** should lead a person to Jesus if not our salvation will be based upon our own **ignorant** dead works.
- “The gospel is beyond the law. The law did not have the power to convert, to change people into its own likeness. But now the gospel, which is by the ministry of the Spirit, has power to **transform** and **change** them into the likeness of Christ, whom it preaches.”-Sibbes, Richard

- The believer is no longer **under law** but **under grace**.-**Romans 6:14**
- When a person lives his life **under grace** it leads that person to desire to **live righteously** not to indulge into sin. Wherever grace has dominion **God's righteous standard of living** will be taught.
- For **the grace** of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **training** us to **renounce** ungodliness and worldly passions, and to **live** self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ”-**Titus 2:11-12**
- Upon believing in the work of Jesus, the believers out of their love for Him, should desire to live in a pleasing way as an expression of our gratitude to the God who has saved us by His beautiful grace.

- “And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”-**Colossians 2:13-14**
- The English words for **having forgiven** are translated as one Greek word in the original and are the verb form of the noun for **grace**.
- Jesus is the **end of the Law** for everyone who believes: His perfect obedience to fulfill the Law has now become the Believer’s righteousness in Him by canceling our record debt.
- “For every **one** look at yourself, take **ten** looks at Christ”-McCheyne, Robert Murray

Romans 10:5-8

“For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down)

or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);”

The Way of the Law and Faith

- Paul now invokes the words of **Moses** to demonstrate the great contrast between the **way of the Law** and the **way of faith**.
- He first quotes **Leviticus 18:5**, where God said to Israel: “You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, **he shall live by them**: I am the LORD.”
- At first glance it would appear that Moses is saying that a man can gain salvation through the keeping of the Law which is true if that person could keep the law **perfectly**.
- This verse in Leviticus that Paul quoted here is good for living in the **way of the Law** but it was not suitable for the **way of Faith** that is required for **righteousness**.

- “For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in **one** point has become **accountable** for **all** of it.”-**James 2:10**
- “For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.”-**Romans 14:23**
- The Law of Moses makes it clear that righteousness is **based on the law**.
- If a person wants to live in the way of the law, i.e., obtain righteousness **based on the Law**, then that person must practice the Law and practice it **completely** and **perfectly**.
- “I do not nullify the grace of God, for **if** righteousness were through the law, **then** Christ died for no purpose.”-**Galatians 2:21**

- Paul now uses another quote from Moses to demonstrate that the **way of faith** comes from the **heart** which is applied here in Romans to faith in Jesus.
- “And the LORD your God will circumcise your **heart** and the heart of your offspring, so that you will **love the LORD** your God with all your **heart** and with all your soul, that you may live.”-**Deuteronomy 30:6**
- The passage above in Deuteronomy sets up the verses quoted by Paul in **Romans 10**.

- “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the word is very near you. It is **in your mouth and in your heart**, so that you can do it.”-**Deuteronomy 30:11-14**
- The **way of Faith** believed in the **heart** was spoken of by Moses and is not something new; it is simple **heart obedience** to trust in God’s word.
- The believer’s obedience comes not in **actions** first but from the **heart** first which is where the decisions of faith are made.

- It is possible for men to believe that God exists and believe in God’s word and even confess with their mouth about such things but stop short of **heart obedience** to what they confess.
- A person doesn’t need to search for the word of God for the **word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)**
- “But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.”-**Isaiah 66:2**

Trusting in the Work of Jesus

- The **zeal** that is according to **knowledge** would be to **trust** in the work of Jesus completely for salvation.
- We should not say in our **heart** that we need to **ascend to heaven** in order to be made righteous for Jesus has already come and is seated at the right hand of God.
- No one needs to bring **Christ up from the dead**, for He is risen up from the dead already.

- Everything that is needed for the salvation of individuals has been accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- All that is needed is to trust from the **heart** in the work of Jesus, the living Word; Who is near and is leading, guiding and providing for all aspects of our salvation.
- “This is how you must cultivate Christ in yourself... Faith must spring up and flow from the blood and wounds and death of Christ. If you see in these that God is so kindly disposed towards you that he gives his own Son for you, then your **heart** in turn must grow sweet and disposed towards God.”-Luther, Martin

Romans 10:9-13

“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.’

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

Confessing

- Paul said that a believer is to **confess with your mouth**.
- **Confess** is the Greek word ***Homologeo*** which means literally to **echo the same words**.
- In the context of Scripture it means **saying** what God says about us or to **agree** with God about what He says in His Word.
- The **written** Word (*graphe*) becomes the **living** Word (*Logos*) as we declare with our **mouth** the **spoken** Word (*Rhema*) of God.
- “Nevertheless, many even of the authorities **believed** in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not **confess** it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that **comes from man** more than the glory that **comes from God.**”-**John 12:42**

- There are three parts to confessing:
- **Assent**: **Agree** to the truth of something.
- **Consent**: **Submit** to the truth revealed.
- **Express**: **Obey** the revealed truth.
- Putting these three aspects together is what it means to **confess with your mouth** to what God's word says about the believer: I believe it is true, it is true for me, and I declare it to be true in my life.
- “For out of the abundance of the **heart** the **mouth** speaks.”-**Matthew 12:34b**
- "Paul is saying that man needs to bring into agreement his confession and his life. The **mouth** and the **heart** should be in harmony, **saying the same thing.**”-Mcgee, J. Vernon

- Here **Romans 10:9** the believer is to **confess** that **Jesus is Lord** proving openly our loyalty to Jesus as Lord of our life.
- If a man called Jesus ***kurios*** he was ranking him with the Emperor and with God; he was giving him the **supreme place in his life**; he was pledging him implicit obedience and reverent worship."-Barclay, William
- "No Jew would do this who had not really **trusted Christ**, for ***Kurios*** in the LXX is used of God. No Gentile would do it who had not ceased worshipping the emperor as ***Kurios***. The word ***Kurios*** was and is the touchstone of faith."- Robertson Word Pictures
- The Lordship of Jesus was solidified by God when He **raised** His Son **from the dead**.

Believe in Your Heart

- We already saw this earlier in **Romans 10:1**, that the **heart** in biblical terms is not merely our emotions but a deep center of all that **drives** our desires, our thoughts, our passions, our appetites, our affections, and our purposes.
- Simple intellectual agreement with the facts of the Cross and the resurrection is not enough. You must **believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead** and even that belief is not enough without the accompanying action to **confess with your mouth**.
- **For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.**-**Romans 10:10**
- Faith in Jesus is the only way to salvation and by believing in Him with one's whole self from the **heart** a person is made righteous through his life, death, and resurrection.

- Also in **confessing** out our agreement from the **mouth** others will **hear** and know what our **heart** believes.
- The faith that saves is **not believing certain truths**, nor even believing that Jesus is a Savior; but it is resting on him, depending on him, lying with all your weight on Christ as the foundation of your hope. Believe that he can save you; at any rate leave the whole matter of your salvation with him in unquestioning confidence. Depend upon him without fear as to your present and eternal salvation. This is the faith which saves the soul.” –Spurgeon, Charles
- “if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not **shifting** from the **hope of the gospel that you heard**, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.”-**Colossians 1:23**

Everyone Who Calls on the Lord

- Paul makes it clear that it doesn’t matter whether you are a **Jew** or **Gentile**, rich or poor, good or bad; for **the same Lord is Lord of all**.
- In order to show that this is not a new concept Paul quotes directly from **Joel 2:32**: “And it shall come to pass that **everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.**”
- “Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever** hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”-**John 5:24**

- God's **name** is an extremely important concept that plays a unique role in the Bible and each time His **name** is used it reveals how man should consider Him.
- When a person takes the Lord's **name** in vain (**Ex.20:7**) it means more than simply swearing; it is taking for granted all that God's reputation reveals about His character and His power towards man in creation and redemption done in His **name**.
- When a believer **calls on the name of the Lord** he is invoking the totality of God's essence; His character and His attributes as revealed to man in Scripture.
- **Psalm 111:9b** tells us that God's name is **Holy and awesome!** Meaning His name is separate and above any **name** under the heavens of which man should then humble himself under His authority.

- Jesus began the Lord's prayer with the phrase: "Our Father in heaven, **hallowed be your name.**" -**Matthew 6:9**
- It is true that God is the mighty sovereign of the universe who created, governs, and will judge all things but He is also revealed to us a **Father**.
- "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him **the name** that is above every **name**, so that at the **name** of **Jesus** every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that **Jesus** Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."-**Philippians 2:9-10**
- **Jesus is Lord** and by His **name** man now can **call** unto God the **Father**. No other **name** has that kind of power.

- “By **calling on the name of the Lord**, all the parts of religious worship which we render to God are intended. It denotes a full and entire communion with God. He who calls on the name of the Lord, profoundly humbles himself before God, recognizes His power, adores His majesty, believes His promises, confides in His goodness, hopes in His mercy, honors Him as his God, and loves Him as his Savior”.-Haldane, Robert
- The Gospel is for **everyone** who calls upon the Lord Who then **bestows His riches upon all that call on Him**.
- Paul tells us in Ephesians God has: “**immeasurable riches** of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”-**Ephesians:2:7b**

Romans 10:14-15

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’”

Preaching the Gospel

- Paul tells us that if anyone is to call on the name of the Lord and believe then the next step is to tell others about the gospel message: **how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?**
- The gospel is not received by osmosis. Saving faith doesn't mystically happen. It is not magic happenings through the reading of the Bible. The gospel message needs to be **preached** and **heard**.
- The gospel must be heard and believed: "faith comes from **hearing**, and **hearing** through the **word of Christ**."-**Romans 10:17**

- "And he[Philip] rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians... and he was reading the prophet Isaiah...So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you **understand** what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip **opened his mouth** and beginning with this Scripture he **told** him the **good news** about Jesus. "-**Acts 8:27a,28b,30,31a,34-35**
- The word for **preaching** that is used here in **Romans 10** is **kerysso** which literally means to **herald**. "A herald was a living newspaper; heralds were a major means of transmitting news by making announcements in the market place and the city streets."-Keller, Timothy

- **Preaching** is not referring exclusively to a pastoral sermon but is taking the message of the **good news** to the streets or wherever we find ourselves to be **sent**.
- “Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, Peace be with you. When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. **As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.**”-**John 20:19b-21**
- Paul said, how are they to preach **unless they are sent**? Jesus said, As the Father has **sent** me, even so I am **sending** you.
- This is the divine **sending** of succession that began with the Father by **sending** the Son, Who now **sends** believers into the highways and byways **preaching** the good news of the gospel message.

- “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being **prepared** to make a defense to anyone who **asks** you for a reason for the **hope** that is in you; yet do it with **gentleness and respect**”-**1 Peter 3:15**
- Believers are to **honor Christ** as Lord in our **heart**.
- So many believers dishonor the Lord when sharing the gospel because sometimes we do it showing that arrogance and rudeness is in our heart believing ourselves to be right and everyone else to be incorrect.
- “Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. **Never be wise in your own sight.**”-**Romans 12:16**

- It is a tragedy to those who witness such a prideful attitude within the church and especially to those outside looking into the church for **hope**.
- The power of God is the gospel message not man's ability to argue and convince which will only harden the listener.
- "A brother offended is **harder to be won** than a strong city; and such contentions are like the bars of a castle."-**Proverbs 18:19**
- The **gospel** is the root cause of our **hope** which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim**; Jesus should be the main focus of our life and witness.
- We should always **preach** the gospel with **gentleness** and **humility** towards those like us who are created in the image of God.

- **How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news- Romans 10:15**
- Those who preach the message of the good news are said to be **beautiful** to God.
- Although the good news may be refused and we may have to endure persecution God considers our task to be one of beauty.
- A missionary was preaching in the village market, and some of the people were laughing at him because he was not a very handsome man. He took it for a time, and then he said to the crowd, "It is true that I do not have beautiful hair, for I am almost bald. Nor do I have beautiful teeth, for they are really not mine; they were made by the dentist. I do not have a beautiful face, nor can I afford to wear beautiful clothes. But this I know: **I have beautiful feet!** God tells me so!" He then quoted the verses found in **Isaiah 52:7** and **Romans 10:15**.

Romans 10:16-17

“But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

Faith Comes by Hearing

- Even though the good news of the gospel was told to Israel about their restoration and the promises of the Messiah's coming and their ultimate deliverance most of the Jews did not believe: **Who has believed what he has heard from us?-Isaiah 53:1**
- If a person, either Jew or Gentile, **rejects the gospel** message then it means that they **disobey God** and His sending to man the gift of His Son.
- At the moment the gospel is **heard** there is a test of faith. **Hearing** about Christ requires a response and the only response that is acceptable to God is to believe in Jesus.
- Ministers may preach and men may hear the message of the gospel and yet they also may not **obey the gospel** and embrace the wonderful truth it proclaims.

- The expression used here for **word** is the Greek word **rhema** which means: an **uttered** word by a living voice, a **spoken word**.
- “Hearing is a reflection of first-century life. Paul does not raise the possibility of the message being read. While there were people who could read, the ordinary first-century citizen depended rather on being able to hear something.”-Morris, Leon
- The **written word (graphe)** doesn’t change a person: People memorize Scripture but it doesn’t affect their behavior.
- “You search the Scriptures (graphe) because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me”-**John 5:39**
- A person must respond to the written word (*graphe*) by believing in the **Word of Christ (Logos)** as the Holy Spirit directs his heart.

Romans 10:18-21

“But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for Their voice has gone out to all the earth and their words to the ends of the world. But I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, “I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.”

Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, “I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me. But of Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.”

Psalm 19

- The Jews may have been objecting to Paul’s claim of hearing the Gospel message. **But I ask, have they not heard?**
- He then quotes **Psalm 19:4, Their voice has gone out to all the earth and their words to the ends of the world.**
- “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”-**Psalm 19:1**
- Paul could be speaking hear about the general revelation of nature, **Romans Chapter 1**, but the other possibility is that he is speaking about the witness of the stars that seems to reveal the Son, (Job 38:32;Amos 5:8;Job 26:13-14;Is. 40:26;Psalm 147:4).
- All of Israel had heard the special revelation of God concerning His Son from the prophets. They could not plead ignorance as a nation.

Israel's Jealousy and Blindness

- God would use the Gentile believers to create in Israel a jealousy. **I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation.**
- Israel sought God but **did not understand** so God decided to extend His mercy towards **those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me.**
- Israel refused to come to God even when He reached out to draw them to Himself: **All the day long I have stretched out My hands.**
- Jesus said of the Jewish leaders: “you **refuse** to come to me that you may have life.”-**John 5:40**

- The reason God has temporarily set them aside in blindness is their refusal to **listen** to God.
- The Old Testament prophets warned Israel of this stiff-necked attitude repeatedly but God's chosen nation persisted in **refusing to listen** even after God had provided the Messiah.
- “God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day.”-**Romans 11:8**
- Paul stated in Acts: “Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.”-**Acts 28:28**
- **Young's Literal Translation: All the day I did stretch out My hands** for **Romans 10:21**

- “Because I have called and you **refused to listen**, have **stretched out my hand** and no one has heeded,”-**Proverbs 1:24**
- What words could better express God's tender invitation to sinful men as **All the day I did stretch out My hands**.
- "The arms outstretched all the day long are the symbol of that incessant pleading love which Israel through all its history has consistently despised"-Expositor's Greek New Testament
- Jesus stretched out His **hands all day long** upon the Cross as an expression of God's love.
- God is so willing! Man is so rebellious! Those who are lost have only themselves to blame.
- "It is a wonder of mercy in God that his goodness is not overcome by man's badness; and it is a wonder of wickedness in man that his badness is not overcome by God's goodness." -Henry, Mathew