

Pt 37 Romans 10:12-21, Faith Cometh by Hearing

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Romans 10:12-21

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?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

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

18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

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.*

20 But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.

21 But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

We pick back up in our Sermon Series, Rooting Through Romans, where we left off 3-weeks ago, here in Romans chapter 10. This will be part number 37 of our studies. Lord willing, we will look at verses 12-21 and finish out this chapter.

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.

Here in our opening verse 12, Paul makes the statement that he has always made and that is the Lord offers His gift of Salvation to ALL men, not just the Jews, but the Gentiles as well. He is Lord over ALL and all men must do to be saved is to believe on him and call upon him. That's what it says in the end of verse 12 "unto all that call upon him." Then he follows it up with verse 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Now, here is where some people have a misguided idea of how someone can be saved. Some believe that a man can go through life a sinner and never hearing or believing the gospel and then right before he's dying, he can just call out the name of the Lord and be saved and go to Heaven. That is one of the most perverted ideas of salvation that is out there. Paul knew there would be those in his day that would think the same thing and that's why he wrote the next 4-verses which explains that it's not simply calling out a name like some magic genie in a bottle, no, the only reason you would call on the name of the Lord for Salvation is if you truly believed in him and what He did for you by sacrificing himself on the cross. Look at in the next verse:

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?

This verse proves the fact that you cannot call on someone to be saved if you do not believe or even ever heard of him. This is one reason I am very leery of death bed

conversions. Sure, I believe the Lord can save someone in the final seconds of their life; however, not someone who doesn't believe on him. The truth is men in their most desperate hour will do or say ANYTHING if they think it's going to help them. How tragic to think of telling someone to just call out the name of Jesus right before they die, and they will go to Heaven and then in the next second that person opens their eyes in hell. I'm afraid there are many such individuals that have done that.

So, there is much more to salvation than simply calling on the name of Jesus and this is why you must rightly divide the Word of Truth. Don't ever just pick out a single verse and base your entire belief system and theology upon it, no, the Bible is a complete book and a connected book. It is to be understood as a whole.

Why do you think there are so many different denominations and false religions? They base their entire system on one or two verses of Scripture and ignore the rest.

The fact is, for a person to be saved they must hear the Gospel, believe the Gospel, and call on the name of the Lord to be saved.

So far, we have seen:

1. There is no difference between the Jew and the Greek (all men can be saved)
2. The Lord is the same Lord over all of those that believe and call upon Him.
3. For a man to call on the name of the Lord unto salvation, he must first believe in him.
4. To believe on Him, one must have heard about him and that is where a "preacher" comes in.

Before you start thinking the only way a person can be saved is if a called man of God who labels himself as a preacher, preaches a message and a person hears it, believes, and gets saved, let me say this: The word "preacher" means: "to publish or proclaim something which has been done." It doesn't necessarily mean a person must audibly hear the Gospel from a man opening his mouth and speaking. There have been millions of people saved simply by reading the Word of God or portions of the Word of God from a Bible tract.

But the Lord's traditional method of spreading the Gospel is and always has been through vocal preaching. We are not told of any books that Jesus as a man wrote. He wrote in the sand one time, but it wasn't a book. Jesus spread the gospel through preaching and teaching vocally. He also sent his disciples into the world to preach the gospel vocally. Which brings us to our next verse:

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

For a man to be a preacher he must be "sent." Men are not to just be sitting around one day and say "hey, you know what, I think I would make a good preacher." No, it doesn't work like that. Real preachers are God called and God sent. Most real preachers will tell you that they never wanted to be a preacher and they didn't want to accept the call to preach when God called them. I sure didn't want to be a preacher and I tried to run from it. My grandfather, Ed Spencer, didn't want to be a preacher and tried to run from it. The problem is you cannot run far enough away to escape the all-seeing eye of the Lord. David wrote in **Psalms 139:8** *If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.*

You would probably be shocked to know how many young men go to Bible college to become a preacher and were never called to be one. They were momma and daddy called or they saw some popular preacher and wanted to be like him, or they thought being a preacher was an easy occupation, so they went to Bible college to become a preacher. What a sad and empty life that is.

Our text says, "[How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!](#)"

This passage of Scripture is actually based on Old Testament text in **Isaiah 52:7**: *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!*

It's not necessarily meaning that the person preaching has gorgeous looking feet and pedicured toenails. What this is talking about is the beauty contained in the message that is being brought by the feet of those that are preaching. Men that go in obedience to the Lord and Herald the Good News that Jesus Saves! The Lord says that they are beautiful.

[16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?](#)

Here Paul is referencing from **Isaiah 53:1** *Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?*

The truth is, not everyone who hears the Gospel is going to believe the Gospel. There will always be those who reject it and laugh it off as some kind of fairy tale. Unfortunately for them, there will be a day when they will believe but it will be too late. Paul writes in **Romans 14:11-12** *For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

He also writes in **Philippians 2:10-11** *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

And that gets us to where the rubber meets the road: [17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.](#)

The only way a person can be saved is if they believe by faith. Our religion is a religion of faith. Paul writes in **2 Corinthians 5:7** *(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)*

And in **Galatians 3:11b**... *for, The just shall live by faith.*

None of us has seen Jesus at any time.

None of us saw him hang on the cross.

None of us watched him shed every drop of his blood.

None of us saw him buried in a borrowed tomb.

And none of us saw him rise out of that tomb on the 3rd day.

But, if you are truly saved today, you believe by faith that all of that happened.

If you don't believe it then you are NOT saved.

In 1972 I had not heard the Gospel. Sure, I had been in church the entire 6-years of

my life and I had heard many sermons and Sunday school lessons, but my ears had never truly heard the Gospel message. But, that night in 1972 my ears were listening, and I heard the Gospel message being preached from the Word of God by a preacher and by faith, I believed every single word of it, and I called upon the name of the Lord Jesus to be saved.

You will hear some very popular people try to sell the idea that a person can get to heaven by some other means other than Jesus.

Joel Osteen says "Well, I'm not sure that Jesus is the only way. I believe he is but..."

Oprah Winfrey spreading the New Age teaching of Eckhart Tolle and telling her millions of followers that there are "many ways to get to Heaven," and I quote: "If you have a God that you believe in it is not the true God. You are God. So, if you have a God out there you are believing in and have a faith in it is not the true God. Oprah said, "I used to think the purpose for Jesus coming was to die on the cross for our sins. Wrong." She said, "the reason He came was to teach us the Christ consciousness and understand our own divinity."¹

Well, here's the problem with those claiming there is some other way besides faith in Jesus Christ – it contradicts the teaching of the Bible, for example:

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

John 3:18 *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

It is crystal clear the only way to be saved is by placing your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross. And what is faith? According to: **Hebrews 11:1** *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

[18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. 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. 20 But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. 21 But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.](#)

There last verses are Paul's answer to those who would question whether the Jews had all heard of these truths? They would question: "Have they not heard? And Paul's answer is "Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world." He is taking a quote from the Psalms where David said: **Psalms 19:4** *Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,*

The fact is, the Jews had heard but they refused to believe. God has always foretold of the salvation of the Gentiles which would provoke the Jews to jealousy.

¹ <https://www1.cbn.com/biblestudy/could-oprah-be-wrong%3F>