

## Romans

Romans Chapter Ten

Romans 10:14-21

April 10, 2011

This is lesson number 85 in our exposition of the Book of Romans.

### The Theme of the Letter

“For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**, for it is the **power** of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the **righteousness of God** is **revealed** from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’ ” Romans 1:16-17

### Title: How Beautiful are the Feet...

**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.**

**18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed:**

"Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world." **19 But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation." 20 But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me." 21 But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."**

Let me remind you that Romans 9, 10, and 11 must be taken together as a unit and kept in context or you will most likely go off on a tangent. Perhaps you might even bring your preconceived notions to the text and having already made up your mind fail to see what the great Apostle is saying.

### Romans 8:28-30

**28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.**

## Romans

**Romans Chapter 9** is about the absolute sovereignty of God in salvation. God has chosen a people to be His children by adoption and in time He calls them and He justifies them. The Bible teaches that God's children were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world.

God's foreknowledge is not foreseen faith in someone who is then chosen by God. That notion of the doctrine of election makes God's choice less than sovereign. God's foreknowledge is a personal and intimate knowledge of individuals before they have done either good or evil that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls....

**Romans Chapter 10** tells us how God, in His sovereign purpose, arranges providence so that an individual will hear the Gospel, believe it in their heart, and confess it with their mouth and be saved.

The person who dwells in Romans 9 might become a "Hyper-Calvinist" i.e., someone who denies that God uses the means of the Gospel to save sinners.

The person who dwells in Romans 10 might become an Arminian i.e., someone who denies the sovereignty of God in salvation.

John Duncan said, "Hyper-Calvinism is all house and no door;  
Arminianism is all door and no house."

**Arminianism vs. Hyper-Calvinism by Tom Nettles:**

**Both say that God does not command what a man is not able to obey.**

**Arminianism: Man is able thus God is not sovereign.**

**Hyper-Calvinism: Man is not able thus man is not responsible.**

**Romans Chapter 11**, taken in context with chapters 9 and 10, answers the question, "Has God cast away His people?" [11:1]

What about the ethnic Jews? What about Israel according to the flesh?

A correct interpretation of the much disputed verse 11:26,

**"And so all Israel will be saved", keeps chapters 9 and 10 and, in fact, the rest of Romans and the entire Bible in context.**

**How has Paul defined "all Israel"?**

## Romans

We will continue in Chapter 10 from verse 14.

### **Do you have to know anything in order to be saved?**

Paul sees that the vast majority of his kinsmen according to the flesh are lost because they are ignorant of the righteousness of God.

Let's be as clear as possible on this.

If you don't know this you do not know the Gospel!  
The righteousness of God **is** the Gospel of Christ.

“For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**, for it is the **power** of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the **righteousness of God is revealed** from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’ ” Romans 1:16-17

Now a person must be lost before they can be saved.

**But Jim, all men are lost!** Yes, but men and women, boys and girls, do not really believe that they are lost and condemned and under the righteous wrath of a holy God.

The Bible clearly teaches that all men are lost, dead in trespasses and sins, and under the wrath of God unless and until God the Holy Spirit makes them alive in Christ, and by grace through faith they are born again.

The problem with lost people is that they don't believe that they are lost. What does it mean to be lost? Not something yet to be determined!

### **SIN is not so much what we do, but what we are:**

“A great many of us need to revise our notions of what it is to be lost. The common conception seems to be that to be in hell is to be lost. The true view is that to be in sin is to be lost. Sin is worse than hell and makes it what it is. Hell would not be the awful place it is if it were not for the sin that is there. And so Jesus came, not to save people from a place called hell, but from a state of being and character, and a course of conduct called sin. ‘He shall save His people from their sins.’ (Matthew 1:21) It is sin that has cut the cable between God and man, and thus shuts man off from that current of divinity in which alone is life, holiness and peace; and left him to death, misery and ruin.”

{ Author unknown }

## Romans

When a man is convicted of sin and guilt by the knowledge of God's holy, and just, and good law, then and only then, will that man call on God for mercy.

And any man, who comes to God, knowing that he is lost and comes pleading for mercy, will not be denied mercy.

Why? Because God is calling him!

But if a man tries to establish a righteousness of his own he is ignorant of the righteousness of God and is denying the sufficiency of the atonement of Christ as the only propitiation for sin.

So we ended the last lesson with verse 13.

**13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."**

Then Paul tells us **how** they call on the name of the Lord to 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?**

Do you see the connection between Chapter 9 and Chapter 10?  
God has chosen a people and God is in control of His Gospel.

**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?

A man can no more believe in something that he has not heard than he can come back from somewhere that he has never been.

Since you must know and receive the righteousness of God in Christ in order to be saved then someone must tell you about the righteousness of God.

How are you going to hear unless someone tells you?

Before anyone says that just reading the Bible or at least a tract that contains the Gospel message has saved someone; that people have been saved without hearing.

## Romans

My answer is that in both cases, audible and visual, it is the “hearing” in the soul, not just the vibrations of the parts of the ear.

“If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”

There are some notable exceptions in the Bible. John the Baptist was quickened in his mother’s womb but John was unique and certainly is not the model of regeneration. Just as there is only one virgin birth!

In God’s providence, which means God’s management of His creation, He arranges the confluence of events so that one of His chosen ones will be in a situation where someone preaches [proclaims, heralds] the Gospel, the seed of the word falls on good ground prepared by the Holy Spirit, and their heart is opened and they see their need of a Savior and they call on the name of the Lord and they are saved!

Providence:

It was no mere accident that a caravan of Ishmaelite traders had started their journey to Egypt and happened to come to the place where Joseph was in the pit to be pulled out by his brothers and sold into slavery. {Genesis 37}

Providence:

Read the Book of Esther.

Providence:

It is not an “accident” that someone is blessed and privileged to hear the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**“So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs,  
but of God who shows mercy.”**

**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!"**

**“The Gospel does not fall from the clouds like rain, by accident, but is brought by the hands of men to where God has sent it.” [Calvin]**

## Romans

“How beautiful are the feet....” {Isaiah 52:7} This is a poetic way to describe the timeliness of the Gospel message. It is always exactly on time!

Picture a runner bringing a message of good news.

“How timely are the feet....”

There was a man of great importance, a eunuch, who was in charge of the treasury of Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, who was reading the Hebrew Scriptures about “a sheep that was led to the slaughter.” This man had no idea what that might mean. God sent Philip to his chariot and “beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus unto him.”

“How timely are the feet....”

The Ethiopian eunuch heard the Gospel and believed it in his heart and confessed Jesus is Lord and he was saved! “How timely are the feet....”

Cornelius, a centurion, was a God-fearer. And at just the right moment an angel came to him and told him to call for Peter. Peter was reluctant to go to a Gentile but Peter was the one to bring the timely message to Cornelius.

God prepared Peter and God prepared Cornelius and when Peter preached Jesus as the Christ the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.

“How timely are the feet....”

E. W. Johnson preached a sermon entitled “God’s Elect are found in strange places.” E.g. A woman at the well in Samaria and a thief on a cross.

We could go on with more examples of how timely are the feet of those who preach the Gospel of peace but there is a verse in Acts 13:48 that states exactly what I am saying.

“Now when the Gentiles heard this [the Gospel], they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.”

But what about Israel?

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel.

For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our report?" {Isaiah 53:1}

## Romans

The fact that only a relatively few men and women in any generation believe the Gospel in no way diminishes the power of the message. The fault is not with the message the problem is the deadness of men's souls.

If the success of the Gospel depended on man's ability absolutely no one would be saved.

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

The examples of how God arranges His providence for men to hear the Gospel were taken from the Book of Acts, or the Acts of the Apostles. Acts begins with the statement, "of all that Jesus began both to do and teach...."

The Acts of the Apostles were but the continuation of 'all that Jesus began both to do and teach.' And so the preaching of the Gospel continues today by those who are sent.

When someone whose heart has been opened hears the message of Christ, faith is created and another soul who 'had been appointed to eternal life believes' the Gospel and is saved.

18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed:  
Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world."

Paul quotes Psalm 19:4 and shows that even in his day men could not plead ignorance, especially Israel according to the flesh.

How much more inexcusable are men and women in our day when we have radio and television and missionaries to most places in the world.

19 But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation."

Here Paul quotes Moses from Deuteronomy 32:21.

The scene is when Moses was provoked to anger by the idolatry of the children of Israel. They had the Word of God and yet repeatedly returned to worship that which was not God. They worshipped idols.

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Now Paul takes what Moses said about the condition in his own day and shows that it was a prophetic statement about Israel in the future. God will move Israel to jealousy by receiving a 'no-nation' into His family.

Imagine that, Gentiles are the children of Abraham while most of the Jews languish in unbelief. "For they are not all Israel who are of Israel."

20 But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me."

Paul reports what the prophet Isaiah boldly said. God will call Gentiles who did not seek after God and pass by Jews who diligently sought God but did it in ignorance and unbelief by trying to establish their own righteousness and rejecting the righteousness of God!

The Jews believed that only the Jews had God's favor and thus they were blinded by their pride and unbelief.

21 But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."

Paul continues to quote Isaiah 65:1-2 where the prophet condemns their stubborn rejection of the Word of God.

"All day long I have stretched out My hands...."

God's longsuffering and kindness is rewarded by a "disobedient and contrary people."

What is your sense of Chapter 10?

Paul's heart is breaking because most of Israel after the flesh is in unbelief.

They sought to establish their own righteousness through the law and are ignorant of the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ.

Moses and the prophets presented the Gospel and they invited their hearers to call on the name of the Lord and be saved.



## **Romans**

**The message is Christ.**

Are you a Christian?

If you reject the Gospel, what excuse will you use to prop up your unbelief?

Why will you die?

Come to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith and you will be saved!