

***“Witness To The World”***  
***Romans 10:14-17***

**Introduction:**

1. William Carey:
    - Who Is Considered To Be:
      - The “Father Of Modern Missions” - Was Also:
        - Considered To Be:
          - To Much Of An “Enthusiast!”
    - He Was The One:
      - Who Had A Great Burden:
        - For The Spiritual Needs Of Others:
          - In The Farthest Corners:
            - Of The World!
      - He Once Said:
        - “Multitudes sit at ease and give themselves no concern about the far greater part of their fellow sinners, who to this day, are lost in ignorance and idolatry.!”
    - He Was Also The One:
      - Who Had A Great Belief:
        - In The Power Of God:
          - To Do The Unexpected & Even:
            - What To Us May Seem:
              - Impossible!
      - He Also Said:
        - “Expect Great Things From God; Attempt Great Things For God!”
    - William Carey:
      - Was An “Enthusiast” Indeed!
        - But - When He Finally Was Able To:
          - Reach The Shores Of India:
            - To “Attempt” Something Great Of His Own:
              - For God - The Reality Of His Mission Set In!
      - Not Long After His Arrival:
        - His Missionary Partner:
          - Left Him!
        - Illness Infiltrated His Happy Home!
          - He Contracted Malaria!
          - His Wife Experienced Mental Illness!
          - And Their Beloved Son, Peter:
            - Died When He Was Only Five!
        - And Only After Seven Long Years:
          - Of Service - Did He Baptize:
            - His First Indian Convert To Jesus Christ!
      - One Day He Wrote:
        - His Feelings About The Trials He Faced:
          - In His Mission To:
            - Witness To The World!
        - He Wrote:
          - “I Am In A Strange Land! No Christian Friend, A Large Family, And Nothing To Supply Their Wants!”
            - William Carey Probably Felt:
              - Very Discouraged & Very Disappointed!
      - But - Even After All He Went Through:
        - He Still Had Hope!
          - For - He Went On To Say:
            - “Well, I Have God, And His Word Is Sure!”
2. And - It Is This Hope:
  - That We Too Can Have:
    - As Christians & As A Church:

- In Our Own Mission:
  - To Witness To The World!
- And - We Are Given This Hope:
  - Back In Romans 10:
    - Where The Apostle Paul:
      - Has Been Reminding Us Of:
        - The Universal Appeal Of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
- So - Let's Turn Back There In Our Bibles Together:
  - To Romans 10:
    - Where - After Expressing His Own Heart's Desire:
      - For His People - The People Of Israel:
        - In 10:1 - "That They Might Be Saved!"
  - He Then Goes On To Show Us That:
    - The Desire Of His Heart:
      - Is But A Reflection Of:
        - The Desire Of God's Heart:
          - For The Entire World!
            - "That They Might Be Saved!"
- And So - In 10:8:
  - He Reminds Us That The Gospel:
    - Or - "The Word Of Faith Which We Preach" Is:
      - Near - To All!
        - 10:8-9 - "The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; / That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved!"
    - This Message Is Near - To All!
- And Then - In 10:13:
  - He Reminds Us That The Gospel:
    - The Good News Of Christ's Life, Death & Resurrection For Sinners - Is Also:
      - The Same - For All!
        - 10:13 - "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!"
    - This Message Is The Same - For All!
- And Then - As We Come To 10:14-17 This Morning:
  - We Will See That The Gospel:
    - Since It Is Such Good News:
      - Must Also Be:
        - Shared - With All!
    - Let's Read Those Verses Together:
      - 10:14-17 - "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? / 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! / But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? / So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God!"

\* First:

**1. Remember The Main Part Of Your Mission!**

- And That Is To:
  - Witness & Proclaim The Gospel:
    - To Those Who Are Lost Around You!
  - And We See This Again In:
    - 10:14-15a - Where After Reminding Us Of What It Takes For Anyone To Be Saved - By “[Calling] On The Name Of The Lord!”
      - We Are Then Asked Four Questions To Get Us To Think About The Main Part Of Our Mission!
        - “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? / And how shall they preach, except they be sent?”
  - With These Four Questions:
    - The Apostle Paul Shows Us The Process By Which:
      - A Sinner Responds To The Gospel:
        - And Is Saved!
- First Question - “How Shall They Call?”
  - “How Shall They Call On Him In Whom They Have Not Believed?”
    - The Implied Answer Is:
      - They Can’t & They Won’t!
        - Because A Call & A True Profession Of Faith Must Be Based On A True Possession Of Faith!
    - And So - This Question Leads To The:
  - Second Question - “How Shall They Believe?”
    - “How Shall They Believe In Him Of Whom They Have Not Heard?”
      - And Again - The Implied Answer Is:
        - They Can’t & They Won’t!
          - Because There Must Be Something For Them To Believe!
    - True Christian Faith:
      - Is Not A Blind Leap Into The Dark!
        - No - There Is Real Truth:
          - In Which You Can Trust!
      - And That Truth:
        - Is About The Lord Jesus Christ:
          - And His Righteous Life, His Sacrificial Death, And His Victorious Resurrection:
            - In Order To Save Sinners Like You & Me!
      - And So - In Order To Believe The Truth:
        - That Can Save - You Need To:
          - Hear The Truth!
        - And So - This Question Leads To The:
      - Third Question - “How Shall They Hear?”
        - “How Shall They Hear Without A Preacher?”
          - And Once Again - The Expected Answer Is:
            - They Can’t & They Won’t!
              - Because Someone Must Tell Them The Truth!
        - **IE:** Just Think About When & How You Came To Faith In Jesus Christ As Your Savior! It Wasn’t, First, You Who Came To God! It Was God Who Came To You! God Brought His Word To You Through The Means Of Others! Perhaps - A Testimony! Perhaps - A Teacher! Or Even Perhaps - A Translator! You Were Completely Dependant Upon Others To Bring You The “Word Of Faith!” This Should Humble You! But This Should Also Cause You To Be Grateful!
          - Because - A “Preacher” - As Translated Here:
            - Is A Herald Of Truth!
              - It Doesn’t Refer To Just The Person Who Stands Up Here / But To The People Who Go Out There!
          - In The First Century - When Paul Wrote This:
            - A Herald Was Is A Person Who Was Chosen & Trained & Then Sent:
              - To Deliver The Words Of The King Or Emperor!
        - And So - In Order For The People:

- To Hear The News From Their King:
  - They Needed Someone To Proclaim It To Them!
  - And So Was & Is With The Gospel!
- And That Is Why This Question Also Leads To The:
  - Fourth Question - 10:15a - "How Shall They Preach?"
  - "How Shall They Preach, Except They Be Sent?"
    - And Again - Paul Expects Your Answer To Be:
      - Even They Can't & They Won't!
      - The True Herald Of The King's Message Must Be Commissioned & Sent By The King!
    - Otherwise - They Might Be:
      - An Unfaithful Messenger - Or Even:
        - An Imposter!
  - The True Herald & The True Preacher:
    - Must Be Sent:
      - By The Authority Of The King:
        - And With The Message Of The King!
- And Without Mentioning It:
  - The Apostle Paul Implies That:
    - In This "Chain Of Custody" Of The Gospel Message:
      - God Has Sent His Messengers:
        - His Church:
          - With His Message:
            - To This World!
    - And This Is A Message Of Grace!
      - Because - God Did Not Have To Send Anyone!
        - Instead - He Chose To!
      - Even When We Were Still At War In Our Hearts With God:
        - God Sent His Only Begotten Son Into This World:
          - With His White Flag!
            - Not Of Surrender, But Of Pardon!
    - And So - This Great Process Of Proclamation:
      - All Begins With & Depends On The Lord!
        - It Is All Based On:
          - His Interest!
          - His Initiative! And:
          - His Infinite Grace!
  - And - You Need To Remember The Main Part:
    - That God Has Given You In All Of This!
      - And That Is - To Be A Faithful Herald:
        - Of His Message:
          - To Those Around You:
            - Who Need His Message!
    - **IE:** Is There Someone In Your Life That You Have Witnessed To About The Lord - And It Seems Like They Never Listen? Never Respond? Maybe Its Even Been Longer Than The Seven Years It Took William Carey! Perhaps You've Forgotten What Your Part Is In All Of This!
      - You Are Just A Witness:
        - To The World:
          - About The King!
      - You Are Called To Simply & Faithfully:
        - Represent The Lord!
        - Repeat His Words! And:
        - Reveal His Purpose!
          - All While Relying Upon:
            - The Power Of His Word!
    - This Is How Even The Apostle Paul Saw His Mission!
      - 1 Corinthians 3:6 - "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase!"
        - Remember The Main Part Of Your Mission!

- Just Be A Faithful Witness & A Faithful Herald Of God & His Truth!

\* And Then - Second:

2. ***Remember The Main Point In Your Mission!***

- And That Is:

- Grace!

- The Grace Of God!

- And We See This In:

- 10:15b - Where Paul Quotes From Isaiah 52:7:

- “As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

- In Isaiah:

- The Good News That Was Being Proclaimed:

- Was The Final Deliverance:

- Of The City Of Jerusalem:

- From Their Captivity By The Babylonians!

- But - That Deliverance:

- Was Meant To Be Even Greater Than:

- The Physical & Temporal Deliverance Of Their Homes!

- That Deliverance Would Be:

- An Illustration Of:

- God’s Final Deliverance Of Their Hearts:

- Through The Suffering Servant Of Isaiah 53!

- And So - The Main Point For Paul:

- In Quoting Isaiah Here Is To Show Us That:

- God Has Sent:

- Because God Is Gracious!

- God Has Sent His “Preachers” & Heralds Into This World:

- Because Of His Good & Gracious Nature!

- God Is Gracious In His Word!

- The Message That God Has Given To His Servants:

- To Share With The World:

- Is A Good Message!

- It Is Good News! The Gospel!

- And- Just Like It Was:

- In Isaiah’s Time:

- It Is A Message About:

- God’s Peace!

- And All The Peace:

- That Comes Through Jesus Christ!

- A Peace That Encompasses:

- All The Directions:

- Of Your Life!

- An Upward Peace!

- With God! 5:1 - “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ!”

- An Inward Peace!

- In Your Heart! Philippians 4:7 - “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus!”

- An Outward Peace!

- Eventually - With All Others! Because Jesus Himself Is The “Prince Of Peace!” (Isaiah 9:6)

- Peace Through Christ:

- Is The Good News We Bring!

- **IE:** In Ancient Times - A Messenger Who Brought Bad News To The King Could Be Killed On The Spot! But We Have Nothing But Good News To Bring To This World!

- But Our Message Is Also About:

- God’s Provision!

- And All The Provision:
  - That Comes Through Jesus Christ!
- We Bring:
  - “Glad Tidings Of Good Things!”
  - Even Those Good Things That Accompany Salvation!
- In Romans - The Apostle Paul:
  - Has Already Described Some Of These “Good Things!”
  - Like In 8:28-31 - “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose! / For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. / Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. / What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”
  - All These Are The “Good Things” Which God Has Given Us To Share & Witness To This World!
- But - Not Only Is God Gracious In His Word - Also:
  - God Is Gracious To His Workers!
  - 10:15 - “How Beautiful Are The Feet Of Them” - That:
    - Preach The Gospel – Of God’s Peace & God’s Provision Through Christ!
  - When Someone Receives:
    - The Message Of The Gospel:
      - This Is What They Think & Feel:
        - About The Messenger Of The Gospel!
    - Even Their Feet:
      - Are Considered To Be Beautiful:
        - Because They Came To Them:
          - At The Right Time, Perhaps Even In The Nick Of Time!
    - Even As Proverbs 25:25 Tells Us:
      - “As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country!”
      - But Even More:
  - This Is What God Thinks & Feels About:
    - His Witnesses To The World!
      - He Considers Even Your Must:
        - Humble & Worn & Least Noticed Part Of Your Body:
          - To Be Beautiful & Just What He Can Use To Spread & Share His Message To All!
            - Your Feet!
    - Don’t We Also Get A Sense Of This:
      - When Right After The Last Supper:
        - That Jesus Had With His Disciples - In John 13:4-5 We Are Told That - “He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. / After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe [them] with the towel wherewith he was girded!”
    - Jesus Himself - God In The Flesh:
      - Humbled Himself Once Again:
        - To Honor The Very Feet:
          - Of The Disciples Would Send As His Witnesses To The World!
      - Though He Knew That:
        - Many In The World Would Dishonor Them:
          - He Honored Them & Even Their Feet!
- Our God Is A Good & A Gracious God!
  - And This The Main Point In Our Witness!
  - Remember This!

\* And Then - Third:

**3. Remember the Main Problem To Your Mission!**

- And That Is:
  - Unbelief!

- And We See This Also In:
  - 10:16 - "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?"
- Here - Paul Once Again:
  - Gives Us A "Reality Check" In:
    - Our Mission For The Lord!
      - "Not All" Will Obey & Believe In "Our Report!"
    - And - Though This Is:
      - A Very Sad & Difficult Thing To Hear:
- It Is To Be Expected!
  - As Paul Says - 10:16a:
    - "But They Have Not All Obeyed The Gospel!"
  - All Too Often:
    - People Who Hear:
      - The Message That We Bring:
        - Of "Good News" - Respond To It:
          - As If It Was:
            - "Bad News!"
    - Even Jesus Said:
      - In Luke 10:16 - "He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me!"
  - Now - This Kind Of Response:
    - Makes No Sense:
      - To Those Of Us Who Have Been Given By God:
        - The Eyes To See & The Ears To Hear:
          - The Gospel For What It Is! Good News!
      - **IE:** I'm Sure It No Sense To William Carey - For Those Long Seven Years - With Hundreds & Thousands Dying All Around Him - Without Responding To The Message Of God's Peace, Pardon, And Provision Through Christ!
    - It Makes To Sense - Until We Remember That:
      - The Gospel Requires:
        - A Confession:
          - Of Jesus As Lord, And Not Ourselves!
      - The Gospel Requires:
        - A Recognition:
          - Of Ourselves As Sinners & In Need Of & Completely Dependant Upon:
            - A Savior!
      - The Gospel Requires:
        - A Submission:
          - To God As God:
            - And Not Ourselves!
    - And So - Sinners:
      - Cannot & Will Not:
        - "Obey" The Gospel:
          - In & By Themselves!
      - And That Is Why:
        - This Sad & Senseless Response:
          - Is To Be Expected!
    - But - As Paul Then Quotes From Isaiah 53:1:
      - We See That:
  - It Is - Also - To Be Empathized!
    - It Seems That Even The Prophet Isaiah:
      - Was A Bit Exasperated With The Response Of His People:
        - To The Good News He Was Bringing To Them!
    - So - He Cried Out To The Lord:
      - "Lord, Who Hath Believed Our Report?"
    - Its As If He's Asking God:

- Lord - Why?
  - Why Won't The People Listen?
  - Why Won't The People Respond?
  - Why Won't The People Believe?
- Have You Ever Wondered This?
  - Have You Ever Asked & Prayed This?
    - If So - Remember That You **Can** Cry Out To The Lord:
      - Even As Isaiah Did!
- But - The Truth Is:
  - It's Not Just Your Report:
    - That They Do Not Believe:
      - It Is "Our Report!"
        - It Is Ultimately God's Message & God Himself That They Do Not Believe!
- And You Need To Remember:
  - That The Main Problem To Your Witness:
    - Is The Unbelief Of Sinners!
      - Just Like It Was For You!
  - The Main Obstacle:
    - For Your Witness In & To This World:
      - Is The Heart Of Unbelief!
  - But - Even That Problem:
    - Is Not Insurmountable!
      - Because - Then - In 10:17:
        - You Also Need To:

#### 4. ***Remember The Main Power In Your Mission!***

- And That Is:
  - God's Word!
    - "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God!"
  - After What Paul Told Us:
    - In 10:16 - About The Problem Of Unbelief:
      - It Can Lead To:
        - Great Discouragement & Despair:
          - In Our Witness For The Lord To The World!
  - But - The Gospel:
    - Is A Message Of Hope:
      - Not Hopelessness!
        - So - There Is Hope For Us:
          - Even In The Great Sea Of Unbelief Around Us!
  - And - The Hope:
    - For Our Witness:
      - Is God's Powerful Word!
    - Because The "Hearing" Of It:
      - Is What God Uses:
        - To Bring Light Into Darkness & Life To The Dead!
    - Isn't This What God Used:
      - To Create The World?
        - Genesis 1:3 - "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light!"
          - There's Still Power In God's Word!
      - Isn't This What Jesus Used:
        - To Raise The Dead?
          - John 11:43-44a - "And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth! / And he that was dead came forth!"
  - The Point Of Contact:
    - Were The Power Of God's Word:
      - Met The Powerlessness:
        - Of The World & Of Man:



- Was The “Hearing” Of It!
- **IE:** In Congress - Many Committees - Have “Hearings!” Requires Two Parties - Expert Witness Are Called To “Report” To The Committee & The Representatives Who Are Supposed To “Receive” Their Report - And Act!
  - Well - So It Is With Our Witness!
- The Only Message:
  - Worth Receiving:
    - And Believing:
      - Is The Message:
        - Of God’s Word!
    - It Is The Only Message:
      - That Is “Quick And Powerful, And Sharper Than Any Two-Edged Sword!” (Hebrews 4:12)
  - And That Is Why:
    - “Faith Cometh By Hearing!”
    - And So - For Us:
- The Only Message:
  - Worth Reporting:
    - And Sharing:
      - Is The Message:
        - Of God’s Word!
    - It Is The Only Message:
      - That Is Active & Authoritative:
        - And is Able To Quicken:
          - And Bring Light & Life:
            - Into The Dark & Dead Heart:
              - Of Sinners!
  - After All - This Is What God Used:
    - To Save You!
      - And That Is Why:
        - We Must Never Forget That:
          - The Main Power In Our Witness:
            - Is The Word Of God!
    - Even As David Wrote:
      - In Psalm 119:93 - “I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me!”

**Conclusion:**

1. As We Sang Earlier:
  - We Really Do Have:
    - A “Story To Tell To The Nations!”
    - And That Story:
      - Is A True Story:
        - Of God & His Grace:
          - To Sinners!
2. And - Not Only Did God The Father:
  - Send His Son:
    - To Bring This Message Near:
  - He Also Sent:
    - His People:
      - On The Same Mission!
  - And So - Remember These Four Things:
    - That We Found In These Four Verses:
      - Remember:
        - The Main Part Of Your Mission:
          - To Be A Witness To The World!
        - The Main Point Of Your Mission:
          - The Grace Of God!
        - The Main Problem To Your Mission:

- Unbelief! And:
  - The Main Power In Your Mission:
  - The Word Of God!
3. So - Even Though There May Be Times:
- That You Feel Like:
    - William Carey Felt:
      - "I Am In A Strange Land! No Christian Friend, A Large Family, And Nothing To Supply Their Wants!"
  - Remember What He Remembered:
    - "Well, I Have God, And His Word Is Sure!"
      - It Is Sure - Because:
        - It Is Powerful!
          - To Save Sinners - And:
            - To Sustain His Servants!

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