

“No More Excuses”
Romans 10:18-21

Introduction:

1. Is There Something:
 - That You Are Especially Good At?
 - Some Of You Are Really Good:
 - At Working With Your Hands!
 - That’s A Talent!
 - I Try To Be - But A Lot Of Times:
 - I Only Make Things Worse!
 - Others Of You Are Really Good:
 - At Working With Your Mind!
 - You Are Able To Think Through A Problem:
 - And Come Up With Just The Right Solution!
 - That’s A Talent!
 - And This Makes Us All:
 - Different & Unique!
 - Our Talents & Our Gifts!
 - 2. But - If There’s One Talent:
 - That ***Every*** Person In This World Seems To Have:
 - It Has To Be:
 - ***Making Excuses!***
 - And Some Excuses:
 - Can Be Very Creative!
 - And - A Lot Of Times:
 - We Come Up With Excuses:
 - To Get Out Of:
 - Things We Don’t Want To Do!
 - And This Talent:
 - Is Something That We Discover Very Early On In Life!
 - 3. Think About It!
 - When You Were Young:
 - And You Wanted To Get Out Of:
 - Doing Something Your Parents Told You To Do:
 - You’d Come Up With An Excuse!
 - “I Forgot!”
 - Or - When You Were A Student:
 - And You Wanted To Get Out Of:
 - Trouble - For Not Turning In An Assignment On Time:
 - You’d Come Up With An Excuse!
 - HW - “Dog Ate It!”
 - Or - Even As An Adult:
 - And You Want To Get Out Of:
 - An Invitation That Someone Gives You:
 - You Come Up With An Excuse!
 - No Examples!
 - Or Even Church!
 - 4. Well - As We Head Back In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To Romans 10 - We Will Find That:
 - When It Comes To The Call Of The Gospel:
 - There Are No More Excuses!
 - All Throughout This Chapter:
 - The Apostle Paul Has Been Telling Us About:
 - The Universal Appeal:
 - Of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
 - That Is - It Is Good News:
 - For All!

- In The First Part Of The Chapter - 10:1-8:
 - We Learn That The Gospel:
 - Is Near To All!
 - 10:8 - “The word is nigh thee, [even] in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach!”
 - In The Second Part Of The Chapter - 10:9-13:
 - We Learn That The Gospel:
 - Is The Same For All!
 - 10:13 - “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!”
 - In The Part Of The Chapter We Looked At Last Week - 10:14-17:
 - We Learned That The Gospel:
 - Is To Be Shared With All!
 - Because - 10:17 - “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God!”
 - And - Because Of This:
 - As We Will See In The Last Four Verses Of This Chapter:
 - The Gospel Is Now:
 - To Be Received By All & Believed By All:
 - In Order To Be Saved!
 - 10:18-21 - “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. / 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. / 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. / But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people!”
5. Here - The Apostle Paul Is Talking About:
- People Who Have Heard:
 - The Word Of God Most Of Their Lives - Like The Jews:
 - And Those Who Hadn’t!
 - He’s Dealing With:
 - People Who Knew The Truth:
 - For Most Of Their Lives:
 - And Those Who Didn’t!
 - And He’s Saying To Us All:
 - That There Are No More Excuses:
 - In Responding To:
 - The Word & Message Of God!
6. You See - Its Not Enough:
- To Just Hear The Word Of God:
 - Its Not Enough:
 - To Just Know The Will Of God:
 - You Need To **Respond** To Him!
 - You Need To Receive & Believe:
 - In The Truth!
 - This Also Means That:
 - It Is Not Enough:
 - To Just Belong To:
 - A Christian Country Or Church Or Family!
 - You Must Personally Believe In & Belong To Jesus Christ!
6. But - Even When It Comes To Our Spiritual Lives:
- People Still Come Up With Excuses!
 - But - In The Verses We Just Read:
 - The Apostle Paul Makes Two Things:
 - Very Clear - To Show Us:
 - That There Are No More Excuses In Responding To The Gospel!

* First:

1. Your Opportunity To Hear Is Clear!

- Which Is What We Find In:

- 10:18 - "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!"
 - The First Excuse That Paul Needs To Deal With:
 - Is The Excuse Of Hearing!
 - **IE:** Just Like When You Were A Child - And Told To Do A Chore - Like Clean Your Room Or Take Out The Trash - But Didn't! One Excuse - "I Didn't Hear You!" But Just A Room Away! When You Were Called For Dinner - You Could Hear From Blocks Away! Selective Hearing!
 - This Common Excuse:
 - Applies To Us All!
 - So - Paul Answers His Own Question!
 - Question - "Have They Not Heard?"
 - Answer - "Yes, Verily!"
 - Everyone Has Heard Something:
 - About The Greatness & The Goodness Of God!
 - And So - The Opportunity To Hear Is Clear!
 - And - To Help Him Deal With This Excuse:
 - He Turns To Psalm 19:
 - As Evidence Of That We've All Heard!
 - Of Course - Psalm 19:
 - Is A Special Psalm That Describes:
 - The Different Ways In Which God Speaks To Us!
 - First Part -19:1-6:
 - General Revelation!
 - God Speaks To Man Through His Creation!
 - Second Part - 19:7-11:
 - Special Revelation!
 - God Speaks To Man Through His Word!
 - Well - Psalm 19:4 Tells Us About:
 - The Heavenly Testimony:
 - Of God's Greatness & Goodness!
 - Psalm 19:1-4 - "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. / Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. / [There is] no speech nor language, [where] their voice is not heard. / Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world!"
 - These Verses Describe:
 - What Is Known As:
 - The "Music Of The Spheres!"
 - The "Line" Of Verse 4 Is Like The "String" Of A Musical Instrument - When Struck Or Glided Over - Makes A Sound!
 - **IE:** If You've Ever Seen The Milky Way On Dark, Cloudless Night - A The Stars That Make Up Our Galaxy Form A "Line" - And Tells Us Something About The Nature Of The Creator! He Is Great & He Is Good! His Greatness Is Seen In The Immensity Of Space! His Goodness Is Seen In The Beauty Of Space!
 - And This Heavenly Testimony:
 - Extends To "The Ends Of The World!"
 - Everyone Can See It! Everyone Can Hear It! Even To The Point - As Paul Tells Us:
 - In 1:20 - "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse!"
 - But - When We Go Back To Romans 10:
 - Paul Uses This Heavenly Testimony:
 - To Express The Extent Of An Even Greater Testimony!
- The Human Testimony:
 - Of God's Greatness & Goodness:
 - As Found In The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
 - In 10:14-15:
 - The Apostle Paul Describes:
 - The Gospel's "Chain Of Custody!"

- It All Begins With A Gracious God:
 - Who Has Sent His Heralds / Ambassadors Into This World:
 - In Order To Bring His Message:
 - To The World!
- And - Even During The Time Of The Apostles:
 - The Reach Of The Gospel:
 - Expanded So Rapidly:
 - It Was Said In Acts 17:6 - That It Was As If The Entire World Had Turned “Upside Down!”
 - The Apostle Paul Even Described:
 - In Colossians 1:23 - How The “Hope Of The Gospel” - Had Been “Preached to every creature which is under heaven!”
- So - The Special Revelation:
 - Of The Gospel - In Coordination With:
 - The General Revelation:
 - Of Creation - Has Truly Given To The World:
 - A Permanent & Reliable Record Of The Greatness & Goodness Of God!
- So That Now:
 - There Are No More Excuses!
 - Because Your Opportunity To Hear:
 - Is Clear!
 - Now - You & Everyone:
 - Must Respond:
 - To What You’ve Heard!
 - As Jesus Himself Said In Mark 1:15 - “Repent Ye, And Believe The Gospel!”
 - So - Since Your Opportunity To Hear The Gospel Is Clear:
 - There Are No More Excuses:
 - To Receive & Believe In Christ!

* Then - Paul Provides A Second Thing That Is Clear:

2. *Your Obligation To Hear Is Clear!*

- Which Is What We Find In:
 - 10:19-21 - “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. / 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. / But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people!”
 - The Second Excuse That Paul Deals With:
 - Is The Excuse Of Knowing!
 - **IE:** Remember In College - Given A Test - Could Hear A Low Rumble Of Mumbles In The Class - None Of The Questions Had Anything To Do With The Lectures! Complained! But - As The Professor Explained Later - All Of The Questions Came From The Textbook - Which Very Few Took The Time To Read! Excuse - Didn’t Know! But It Was Assigned! The Opportunity Was There - But They Didn’t Fulfill Their Responsibility / Obligation!
 - This Is A Further Explanation:
 - Of 10:17 - “So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God!”
 - The Point Of Contact:
 - Between The Reporting Of God’s Word & The Receiving Of God’s Word:
 - Is The “Hearing!”
 - Well - God Has Already Done His Part!
 - The Reporting Of The Word Of God:
 - Is Done & Continues To Be Done:
 - Through The Spreading Of The Gospel!
 - So - The Opportunity Has Been Given!
 - Now - Sinners Must Do Their Part!
 - The Receiving Of The Word Of God:
 - Must Be Done!
 - Through Faith & Belief!

- Of Course - Even This Faith:
 - Is A Gift Of God's Grace!
 - "For By Grace Are Ye Saved Through Faith!" (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- But - It Doesn't Take Away:
 - Your Personal Responsibility & Obligation To Believe!
- This Excuse Especially Applies:
 - To The People Of Israel!
 - But - It Can Also Apply To Everyone:
 - Who Has Been Exposed To The Knowledge Of The Truth!
 - So - Again:
 - Paul Answers His Own Question!
 - Question - "Did Not Israel Know?"
 - The Implied Answer Is "Yes!"
 - They *Did* Know!
 - And So Do We!
- And So - The Obligation To Hear Is Clear!
 - And You Need To Ask Yourself:
 - What Have You Done:
 - With What You Know?
 - Paul Now Quotes From:
 - The Old Testament Books Of Deuteronomy And Isaiah:
 - To Give Evidence Of What Israel Actually Knew!
- First - From Deuteronomy 32:21 - They Knew About:
 - The Sovereign Nature Of God's Grace!
 - Seen Again In 10:19:
 - "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!"
 - **IE**: The First Excuse That The Students In My Class Gave Was This: The Teacher Didn't Tell Us What Was Going To Be On The Test! But - The Fault Was Not With The Teacher! Because He Had Given The Pages Of The Textbook To Read & Study! Just Look At The Syllabus!
 - Here - Paul Takes This Excuse Away From Israel Too!
 - God Had Already Told Them:
 - That If They Did Not Respond To Him & His Words:
 - He Would Offer Them To Another People - Which Is "No People!"
 - In Deuteronomy 32:
 - We Have The "Song Of Moses!"
 - Where Moses Gives His Own Testimony:
 - Of God's Greatness & Goodness!
 - He Begins:
 - 32:1-4 - "Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. / My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: / Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. / [He is] the Rock, his work [is] perfect: for all his ways [are] judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right [is] he!"
 - And Israel **Knew** All This About God!
 - Israel Had **Seen** All This About God!
 - But - Most Of Them:
 - Did Not **Believe** This About God!
 - And There Were No More Excuses For Them!
 - So - The Same God:
 - Who Had Given Them So Much:
 - Could Also:
 - Take Away From Them:
 - What He Had Given!
 - Even Their Privileged Position:
 - As His People - And Then Offer It To Others! Even Gentiles! Even Us!
 - Israel Knew This!

- But They Also Knew About:
- The Sufficient Nature Of God's Grace!
 - Next - Paul Turns To A Passage From:
 - The OT Prophecy Of Isaiah - Isaiah 65:1-2!
 - And - From 65:1 - Paul Reminds Them - "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!"
 - I Find It Interesting That:
 - In Within 3 Verses - Paul Uses:
 - All 3 Major Sections Of The Jewish Scriptures - The Tanakh!
 - The Torah - Law - Moses:
 - Deuteronomy!
 - The Neviim - Prophets:
 - Here - Isaiah!
 - The Ketuvim - Writings:
 - Psalms!
 - He Wants Them To Know That:
 - Their Scriptures - Their Textbook Of Truth:
 - Is Complete & Sufficient:
 - To Tell Them All They Needed To Know:
 - About God - In His Person & His Purpose - For Them & The World!
 - **IE:** Just Like In Our Class - There Was Nothing Wrong With The Textbook - Just Many Of The Students Didn't Read It Or Study It! If They Had - They Would Have Known The Answers To The Questions On The Test!
 - But - Israel - Failed To:
 - Truly Understand Their Textbook!
 - They Forgot That Part Of God's Purpose For Them:
 - Was So That God Himself Could Be "Found Of Them That Sought Me Not" & Be "Made Manifest Unto Them That Asked Not After Me!"
 - This The Kind Of God:
 - That God Is!
 - He Is A God That Pursues After Sinners! No Matter Who They Are! No Matter Where They Are From! No Matter What They Have Done!
 - And Israel Forgot That This Was:
 - One Of The Essential Reasons:
 - Why God Called Abraham - Their Father:
 - In The First Place!
 - Genesis 12:1-3 - "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: / And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: / And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed!"
 - And This Blessing Would Come Through:
 - His Seed - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Yet - How Much Do We Know:
 - And Have Forgotten - Or Fail To Understand?
 - Truly - There Are No More Excuses!
 - Need To Respond To What We Have Received!
 - But - What Else Did Israel Know?
 - The Suffering Nature Of God's Grace!
 - As Given Us In 10:21 - Where Paul Continues His Quote:
 - From Isaiah 65:2 - "But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people!"
 - Once Again - The People Of Israel:
 - Knew The Kind Of God They Had!
 - They Knew - As God Himself Had Told Moses In:
 - Exodus 34:6 - That He Was / Is - "The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth!"
 - How Many Times:

- Did Israel Reject:
 - The Longsuffering Of God - And:
 - The Long Extension Of:
 - His Arms Of Love & Grace?
- They Knew The Truth About God!
 - But They Did Not Respond To:
 - That Truth!
 - They Kept Rejecting His Offer Of Grace & Help!
 - They Kept Resisting!
- **IE:** I Had Other Classes - Where Students Weren't Doing So Well! Yet - For Most Of Those Classes - The Teachers Offered Their Help - Time After Time! Office Hours! Door Open! Even Phone Number! Call! Come! But - Very Few Took Those Teachers Up On Their Offer!
 - If Those Students Ended Up Failing Another Test - They Had No More Excuses!

Conclusion:

1. And So It Was For Israel - And:
 - So It Is For You & For Me!
 - If You Are Hear Today:
 - You Have Heard:
 - The Truth!
 - You Even Know:
 - The Truth!
 - Now - You May Not Understand:
 - Everything About The Truth:
 - None Of Us Do!
 - But - You've Been Given Enough Truth:
 - That You Now Have:
 - Not Only The Opportunity - But Also The Obligation:
 - To The Truth That You Have Been Given!
 - Respond! Receive! Believe!
2. Because - There Are:
 - No More Excuses:
 - For You!
 - Your Opportunity:
 - To Hear From God:
 - Is Clear!
 - Your Obligation:
 - To Hear From God:
 - Is Clear!
3. Now - You Must Respond!
 - Whenever God Brings Something In His Word:
 - To Bear On Your Life:
 - You Must Respond!
 - But - What Is Our Problem:
 - So Many Times?
 - The Same Problem That Paul Is Dealing With:
 - In Romans 10!
 - The Problem Of Unbelief!
 - You See - This Is The Only Link:
 - In The Gospel's "Chain Of Custody":
 - That So Often Breaks Down!
 - God Has Sent His Messengers!
 - His Messengers Do Proclaim His Message!
 - Not Only Human, But Heavenly!
 - And - The Scripture Is Clear!
 - You Have Heard!
 - You Do Know!
 - But - Will You Believe?

4. Won't You Receive & Respond To:
- God - And:
 - His Will & His Way:
 - That He Reveals Through:
 - His Word?
- Because Now:
 - There Are No More Excuses!

- * What Is Your Excuse:
- For Not Coming To Christ?
- For Not Learning About Christ?
- For Not Living For Christ?
- You Have Heard! You Do Know! No More Excuses!

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