

HOW WILL THEY HEAR?

Text: Romans 10:1-15

Introduction:

1. Romans 9, 10 & 11 form an important trilogy concerning the nation of Israel.
2. This lesson: Paul's desire for the salvation of the Jews and the offer of salvation that is extended them in this inter-advent period. "Paul uses the occasion of answering the question about God's relationship with Israel to repeat the way of salvation for both Jews and Gentiles. He taught this in Romans 3 and 4, and he teaches it again."
3. This chapter answers the question, "What must I do to be saved?" or "how do I get saved?" in the clearest terms. It also contains a stirring missionary challenge. Salvation is free and available but how will people hear if we don't go?

I. THE PASSION FOR ISRAEL'S SALVATION (VS. 1-5)

A. The Prayer for Israel (Vs. 1)

1. Paul's burden for the souls of his fellow Jews found expression in the place of prayer. Paul pleaded with God for their souls.
2. You won't pray much for the lost unless you have a heart for the lost.
3. Romans 10 commences in a similar way to Romans 9 with an expression of Paul's heart for his fellow Israelites.

B. The Problem of Israel (Vs. 2-5)

Paul now proceeds to outline the problem with Israel's approach to salvation. It is the same problem that many still have today. **They had:**

1. Relied in their Self-Righteousness (Vs. 2-3)

Their religion was marked by:

a. Ignorant Zeal (Vs. 2)

- i. They were sincere, but sincerely wrong. Zeal in itself, no matter how commendable, does not automatically make someone right with God. Zeal can be misguided and misdirected if it isn't informed by truth.
- ii. The Apostle Paul knew what this was like. He testified concerning his own misguided religious zeal prior to salvation – "Concerning **zeal**, persecuting the church;" (Phil. 3:6)
- iii. Illustration: Taking the wrong road to your destination. The longer and the faster you travel down that road, the further away from your desired destination you actually become.

- b. Works based Righteousness (Vs. 3). This verse gives the specifics of their ignorance. They had gone to great lengths to earn their own salvation through works but it was based on ignorance of the way of salvation. The word 'establish' means "to stand up, erect as a monument".
- 2. Refused God's Salvation Righteousness (Vs. 3b-4)

It was not that the Jew was not aware of the holy and righteous character of God. He was very knowledgeable of God's holy character through the law. The issue was that they did not understand that one could only be made righteous before God through faith, not works.

 - a. They had failed to submit to God's righteousness. The word 'submitted' implies surrender, humility and contrition. God's righteousness is to be received, not earned.
 - b. They had failed to understand the law (Vs. 4-5)
 - i. The function of the law (Vs. 4). Christ was the only one who perfectly fulfilled the law. Further, the purpose of the law was to bring us to Christ. The law is righteous but has no power to make one righteous. All it can do is show you your sinfulness and pronounce your guilt before God. Gal. 3:24-25 "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster **to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.** But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster."
 - ii. The requirements of the law (Vs. 5). Paul quotes Leviticus 18:5. To achieve righteousness by the law would require perfect obedience in word, thought and deed; something no man can achieve. James 2:10 "*For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*" Illustration: Moses breaking of the two tablets (Ex. 32:19)

II. THE PREACHING FOR ISRAEL'S SALVATION (VS. 6-13)

Paul proceeds to explain the "righteousness of faith" (Vs. 6) in contrast to the "righteousness which is of the law" (Vs. 5). These verses contain some of the clearest statements in the Bible on how a sinner can be saved. They have been used to bring millions to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Paul proclaims:

A. The Availability of Salvation (Vs. 6-8)

1. These verses draw on a quotation from Deut. 30:11-14. Moses had exhorted the children of Israel that the law was not hidden from them or afar off. It was in their mouth and heart. There was no need for one to ascend into heaven to bring it down to them nor did they

need to travel across the seas to find it and bring it to them. The commandments had already been given by Divine revelation. They had the Word of God from heaven and it was very near so they could understand it and do it.

2. The Apostle Paul now applies this theme to the message of salvation. The key point he makes is the nearness of salvation. Christ is not distant from them. He is within the reach of faith in the Gospel message proclaimed by the Apostles. The truth of the Gospel is in the Jewish Scriptures which they hold dear!
3. Note: Emphasis on the heart – “say not in thine heart” (Vs. 6); “believe in thine heart” (Vs. 9). The faith that brings God’s righteousness to us is a wholehearted faith that does not make doubts its starting point.
4. “word of faith” = this phrase does not refer to the popular concept espoused by some prosperity preachers that “the word of faith” means that believers should always be in good health, financially successful and blessed (e.g. as espoused by Kenneth Hagin). The “word of faith” is what is given to us here in Vs. 9 & 10! Note the semicolon at the end of verse 8.

B. The Acceptance of Salvation (Vs. 9-10)

These verses reveal how one can receive salvation:

1. Repentance – not specifically mentioned but implied from the context (Vs. 1-5). For the Jew to confess that Jesus is Lord meant a total renunciation of his self-righteousness & religious efforts.
2. Faith
 - a. It’s source - “in thine heart”. Faith is more than a mental assent to the facts of the Gospel. The basics of the Gospel must be comprehended in the mind but that alone does not constitute salvation. They must be embraced and relied up in the innermost part of one’s being, the heart. There is a superficial faith that does not bring salvation (John 2:23-25). Genuine faith is the channel through which God’s righteousness is received.
 - b. It’s object – the Person & work of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, who died for sin, was buried, and rose again. Specifically, this involves faith in the resurrection. This is fundamental to the Gospel. If you do not believe Jesus Christ rose from the dead, you cannot be saved. The Gospel is that Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again (1 Cor. 15:1-4).
3. Confession – the expression of faith in the heart. Matthew 10:32 “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.” You must be prepared to:
 - a. Confess Christ as Lord (Vs. 9)
 - b. Call on Christ as Lord (Vs. 13)

C. The Assurances of Salvation (Vs. 11-13)

The Apostle Paul now adds several guarantees to further assure us of the certainty of salvation for all who will receive it by faith.

1. Salvation will not disappoint (Vs. 11). Paul quotes from Isaiah 28:16 which says “he that believeth shall not make haste”. “Haste” is the Hebrew word ‘*hus*’ which means “to hurry to a place of safety (in the sense of) disturbed, agitated, or unstable, to be anxious, dismayed” (Complete Word Study Bible) The Holy Spirit applies this through Paul as “whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.” The word ‘ashamed’ means “shame, disgrace”. It is translated “confound” (1 Cor. 1:28) and “dishonor” (1 Cor. 11:4). Whoever believes on Jesus Christ will not be ashamed, disgraced or confounded nor will he need to flee (haste) to a man-made refuge. (Notes from D. Cloud Romans commentary)
2. Salvation is for all men (Vs. 12).
 - a. All have sinned – there is “no difference”! (Romans 3:22-23)
 - b. All can be saved – there is “no difference”! (Romans 10:12)
3. Salvation is guaranteed for all who will call on Christ (Vs. 13). Those who call on Christ for salvation from a repentant, believing heart, will be saved. In this verse the truth of Vs. 9-10 stated in simple, summary fashion.
 - i. ‘whosoever’ means anybody and that means YOU! (Note emphasis on ‘whosoever’ in these verses - 9:33, 10:11, 13)
 - ii. John 3:16 – ‘whosoever’
 - iii. Rev. 22:17 “And the Spirit and the bride say, **Come**. And let him that heareth say, **Come**. And let him that is athirst **come**. And **whosoever will**, let him take the water of life freely.”

III. THE PROPAGATION OF THE SALVATION MESSAGE (VS. 14-15)

The great need of missions comes into view in light of the glorious salvation that has just been described.

A. The Searching Questions (Vs. 14-15a)

The “they” points back to Jew & Gentile in Vs. 12. The Apostle asks four penetrating questions to impress upon us the need of worldwide missions. The Apostle works backward by stages – calling – believing – hearing – preaching – sending. These questions are rhetorical questions, meaning that the answer is clearly implied in the question.¹

1. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?
The answer is they won’t!

¹ A rhetorical question is a question asked in order to create a dramatic effect or to make a point rather than to get an answer.

2. How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? The answer is they won't! The sinner cannot believe on Christ without hearing the Gospel.
3. How shall they hear without a preacher? The answer is they won't!
 - a. The great need of the hour is for **preachers**² to take the Gospel to every corner of the harvest field. The greatest need of the hour is not for more politicians, singers, uni lecturers or secular professionals. We certainly do not need any more politician preachers! The great need of the hour is for preachers who will preach Christ and His Gospel to the ends of the earth; preachers who will proclaim the whole counsel of God.
 - b. Preaching is God's chosen method to win the lost! 1 Cor. 1:21 *"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by **the foolishness of preaching** to save them that believe."*
 - c. Note: Not just a job for full time pastors, missionaries and evangelists. All believers need to be involved in proclaiming the message of salvation. All believers are called to be soul winners.
4. How shall they preach, except they be sent?
 - a. This points us to the local church as the base for missions. It is the role of **the local church** (not para church ministries or mission boards) to send out preachers who have been called of God (See Acts 13:1-4). If we don't have strong, missions minded local churches, where will the preachers come from to take the message to a lost and dying world? If churches are not praying for labourers for the harvest field, where will the labourers come from? (Luke 10:2) Where will the missions support come from if we don't have a strong, local church home base?
 - b. Preachers need to be raised up from within the local church (Acts 13:1-4), trained (2 Tim. 2:2), sent out and supported. One key way we can all be a part of world missions is to support godly Gospel preachers and Christian workers financially through missions giving in the local church. You may not be called to be a full time pastor, missionary or Evangelist but you can have a ministry of support to God's men in prayer, giving and practical helps.
 - c. **"Today Christians spend more money on dog food than missions."**—Leonard Ravenhill. What an indictment! While your pampered pooch lives in luxury and comfort, the preacher on the field lives on next to nothing, distracted from Gospel ministry while he wonders how the next bill is going to be paid.

B. The Supporting Quotation (Vs. 15b)

² The Greek word for 'preacher' here is 'kerusso' meaning a herald.

1. Paul quotes from Isaiah 52:7 and highlights the value of Gospel feet (Eph. 6:15)
 - a. Precious in God's sight – missionary endeavor pleases God!
 - b. Precious to those saved through the servant of the Lord's faithfulness.
2. Some powerful quotes on missions
 - a. John Wesley: "You have one business on earth – to save souls."
 - b. C.T. Studd "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."
 - c. George Whitefield: "Oh for a hundred thousand lives to be spent in the service of Christ!"

Conclusion:

1. Will you come to Christ today for salvation?
2. Will you involve yourself in the work of missions? Will you pray, give and go?
3. Will you surrender to the possibility of God calling you to full time Christian service?