

I. Introduction: Why is evangelism so hard for so many of us?

II. Do you love the lost and pray for their salvation? 10:1

- A. Paul cared deeply for his unbelieving kinsmen and prayed for their salvation. 10:1a
1. He knew what awaited them if they continue in unbelief.
 2. His heart was broken for them. 9:1-5
 3. Paul's concern reflects God's concern for the lost which is expressed in the free offer of the gospel. Acts 17:30 Is. 45:22 John 7:38 Mt. 11:28 23:37 Ezek. 33:11
- B. Application.
1. Evangelism begins with a sincere love for the unsaved.
 2. We need to pray more for the lost and for our outreach to them. Co. 4:3 Acts 4:29

III. Do you clearly understand the gospel message? 10:2-13

- A. If you try to make yourself righteous by law keeping, you will fail. v. 2-5 10:2-3
1. When it comes to righteousness, sincerity and zeal are not enough. v. 2 Mk. 10:20
 2. The Jews, like virtually all other religious, tried to establish their own righteousness by their works. 10:3a
 3. The person who perfectly keeps God's law shall live. v. 5 Lev. 18:5 Eze. 20:11,13
 4. But no one is able to keep God's law well enough to earn salvation. 10:5 3:20,23,10 James 2:10 Mark 12:29ff Matthew 5:20ff 19:16ff Gal. 3:24
 5. Those who break God's law are under God's curse. 6:23 Gal. 3:10 Deut. 27:26
- B. You can only gain the righteousness God demands through faith in Christ. 10:4-13
1. God has already done all that is necessary for you to be saved. v. 6-7
 - a. God the Son has come down from heaven. John 1:1,14 Gal. 4:4
 - b. God the Father has raised Him from the dead. 1:4 4:25
 2. Jesus has perfectly met God's demand for righteousness. Gal. 3:13-14
 - a. He perfectly kept God's law, fulfilling its requirement for us. 10:4 8:4
 - b. He received the punishment sinners deserve for our sinful lawbreaking. 3:21ff
 3. You receive salvation solely through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. 10:8b
 4. Inward faith produces outward confession. v. 9-10 I John 4
 5. God's promise is great: Whoever will call on the name of the LORD will be saved. v. 11-13 Isa. 28:16 John 3:14-16
- C. Application: Freely offer the gospel of God's grace in Christ to all. v. 12 Jo. 3:14-16

IV. Do you have beautiful feet? v. 14-17

- A. Paul has already shown, from God's eternal perspective, the chain of events by which He saves people by His sovereign grace. 8:29-30 9:15-16 Eph. 1:3ff
- B. Now Paul shows how God works through us in calling and saving the lost. 10:14-17
- C. Paul sets forth the chain of events in salvation, from the human perspective. v. 14
1. People must believe in Lord Jesus before they will call upon Him. v. 14a
 2. People must hear the gospel message before they can believe. v. 14b,17
 - a. God gives the new birth in connection with the Word. Js. 1:18 I Pe. 1:23
 - b. Those who reject the Word are rejecting Christ Himself. Lu. 10:16 Eph. 2:17

3. People must have a preacher before they can hear the Word. v. 14c Eph. 4:11
II Tim. 4:1ff Acts 8:4 11:19 Col. 4:5-6 I Pe. 3:15
4. Those who preach must be sent. v. 15 1:1,5 Ga. 1:15-16 2:2 Eph. 4:11 Mt. 9:37ff
 - a. By whom should the preachers and evangelists be sent? Mt. 16:18 Eph. 4:11
Acts 13:1ff 14:26-28 20:28 I Tim. 3:15 II Tim. 2:4 Gal. 1:8 I Cor. 3:11
 - b. In what sense do those who proclaim the gospel have *beautiful feet*? Is. 52:7

D. Application.

1. The 'foolishness' of proclaiming Christ crucified is God's chosen means by which the gospel is to be spread. 1:14 I Cor. 1:17-25 2:2 Mt. 12:39
2. Christ has sent out many heralds of good news throughout the whole world.
Acts 1:8 Matt. 28:18-20 II Co. 5:20
3. Each of us has a role in proclaiming the good news and in sending forth evangelists and missionaries.

V. Concluding encouragement for discouraged or weary evangelists.

- A. Prayerfully remember the great need of those who remain in unbelief. 10:1
 1. Start praying for fruitfulness.
 2. Pray for particular people.
 3. Pray for boldness.
- B. Remember that God has given you a great and powerful message. 10:2-13 1:16-17
 1. Use the Scriptures when evangelizing. 3:20ff Philipians 3:7-10
 2. Seek to get people into the Word of God. He. 4:12
 3. Don't hold back from freely offering the gospel to all.
- C. Remember that God accompanies His message with the power of His Spirit.
 1. People are saved by God's power, not your persuasiveness.
 2. God already has chosen a people (sheep). Acts 18:9-10 Jo. 10:27-29,16 Eph. 1:3ff
 3. God powerfully opens hearts when the gospel is proclaimed. Acts 16:14 Jo. 6:44
I Cor. 1:18ff 2:14
 4. His Word will not return void. Isa. 55:11
 5. Prayerfully search for people whose hearts God has prepared.
 6. Proclaim the gospel with boldness, trusting in God's power.
- D. Don't give up when the results don't come immediately. I Cor. 3:6
- E. Remember that the supreme end of evangelism is the glory of God. (Lloyd-Jones)

Discussion questions

1. Why is it that many of us have a hard time sharing our faith?
2. How does Paul demonstrate his concern for the lost?
3. How can we revive our love for those who remain in unbelief?
4. What sets the gospel apart from every other religion?
5. What are some Bible texts you would use in sharing the gospel with a friend?
6. Why should we evangelize if God has already chosen those who will be saved?
7. What means does God use in saving His people?
8. What would you say to encourage:
 - a. A believer who is afraid to evangelize because his family and friends might mock him?
 - b. A believer who doesn't know where to start in sharing his or her faith?
 - c. A believer who has been witnessing for a long time without seeing fruit?