

How Can Anyone Call? Romans 10:13-15

INTRO:

To understand what Paul is doing in **Romans 10**, we must see the overview of the forest. This passage was not written first to be evangelistic. It is a building block in the building showing God's eternal plan. God's plan was more than Israel. It was a plan that included people from all nations. For this to happen, God in His wisdom will only save a remnant of the Jewish people in the present age. ***"Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace."*** (Romans 11:5). So, is God being unfaithful to the Israelites? Has He failed to keep His word?

I. The Process leading to Our Calling Upon God (v. 13-15)

II. What the Lord did for Israel (16-21)

I. The Process leading to Our Calling Upon God (v. 13-15)

Romans 10:13–15 ***"For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." 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 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!'"***

A. We stopped at the climax of how we receive the gift of salvation in Christ. We pick it up where we left off. We call upon the Lord by confessing with our mouths, what is in our hearts, ***"the Lord Jesus"*** and ***"that God raised Him from the dead."*** Several steps in the plan of God took place before we could call.

B. First, in **verse 14**, we had to have heard.

"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?"

Contrary to what many may tell you today, faith does not occur in a vacuum. We cannot have faith without knowledge about Whom we believe. The Gospel has to be preached if we are to believe and to call upon the name of the Lord.

C. Second, ***"And how shall they hear without a preacher?"*** Someone has to proclaim the Word about Christ to them. Do you remember Paul's picture in **2 Corinthians 5:20**?

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

D. Third, verse 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!’”

How are we authorized and sent?

Matthew 28:18-20 ***“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”***

These are the things which must take place in the human dimension of salvation if we are to believe and call upon the name of the Lord.

II. What the Lord did for Israel (16-21)

A. While Paul helped us and instructed us about our unique salvation experience, and about our own evangelistic ministry, he wrote this mainly to answer the question of whether the Word of God has failed. It has not. In God’s eternal plan most of Israel has been set aside so the Gentiles can be saved (God’s sovereignty). We will see this detailed in **chapter 11**. However, at this point, Paul wanted us to understand that Israel’s failure is not God’s fault. All of these requirements were met for Israel.

B. Verses 16-17; ***“But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘LORD, who has believed our report?’ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of [Christ].”***

Here is the important assertion. Did Israel believe? Did they obey the command that they must believe in Christ, their Messiah? Did they obey the commandment to believe? No, they did not call.

C. Oh but they didn’t hear did they? (verses 18-19)

“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.’ 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.”

The fact is they did hear. God gave them enough revelation in the Old Testament for them to hear and know and be saved.

D. God’s revelation not only showed them how to believe, it also showed the bigoted Israelites that Gentiles would also be saved.

v.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.’***

E. The point is,

v.21 ***“But to Israel [Isaiah for God] says: ‘All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people.’”***

Salvation is one coin with two sides. You have to have both sides to see salvation as presented in the Bible. One side says,

Eph1:4 *“Chosen in Him before the foundation of the world.”*

The other side says as it does here.

“All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people.”

We must not try to put these two sides together this side of eternity. It is a mystery.

What Do We do with this?

1. If you have never put your faith in Christ, you need to do that today. He has faithfully provided all that was necessary. You need to confess Him and own Him by faith.
2. We must rejoice in the wonder of salvation. Thank God continually for what He did in saving you and guaranteeing heaven for you.
3. Even though we cannot comprehend what He is doing, God is in control. He knows what He is doing. The future is hidden from us, but it is clear to Him and He will win in the end. The future does not exist apart from God. He made it. A good God is not enough. He is an All-powerful, All-knowing, Always-present and Sovereign God Who is our heavenly Father.
4. If God had not worked in us we would have never chosen Him.

Hymn #522 *He Lifted Me*