

LESSON 20: ROMANS 10:14-21
DECEMBER 2, 2020

OVERVIEW

- . The missionary task – Romans 10:14-15
- . No excuses for unbelief – Romans 10:16-21

THE MISSIONARY TASK – ROMANS 10:14-15

The first necessity: Calling on Christ

- . A Christian must call on the Lord personally
 - . “Lord Jesus Christ, I confess that I am a sinner. I cannot save myself, but you have done everything necessary for my salvation and I trust you to save me from my sin”

. The second necessity: Belief in Christ

- . Mere intellectual belief is not enough
- . There must be personal trust in or commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- . Intellectual understanding without commitment is not true faith

. The third necessity: Hearing Christ

- . Jesus Christ Himself speaks to us personally
- . Through faith we come to recognize His voice, which should not surprise us
 - . “His sheep will know Him and respond to His voice” – John 10
- . The danger here is subjectivity
 - . Some will say “Christ told me so and so” then follow it with something totally unrelated to scripture
- . Two safeguards
 - . Through our growth and understanding of what scripture says we are provided with a template that will help us discern Christ’s voice from our own
 - . The second safeguard is to surround yourself with qualified and appointed teachers who are qualified to help interpret scripture

. The fourth necessity: Preaching Christ

- . This is a plea for missions
- . In order for a person to hear Christ, someone must proclaim Christ to Him
- . Messengers need to be prepared properly in order to spread the Word and introduce the world to the truths revealed through the Gospel

- . The New Testament is very clear on our need to know God and to make Him known
 - . "The harvest is plenty but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field" – Matthew 9:37-38
 - . "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" – Matthew 28:19-20
- . God's beautiful people – Romans 10:15
 - . The beauty we find here is not descriptive beauty but functional beauty
 - . True beauty is measured by kind acts, or by the gracious and faithful performance of one's duties
 - . "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news" – Isaiah 52:7
 - . A message of deliverance from sin is great news
 - . Messengers of the Cross are beautiful because they are bearers of the gospel, which is the most beautiful message in the world

NO EXCUSES FOR UNBELIEF – ROMANS 10:16-21

- . Paul anticipates that the unbelieving Jew has very good reasons for their unbelief and addresses each of their excuses
- . The first excuse: They did not hear – Romans 10:18
 - . The scripture they adhered to prior to the coming of the Messiah did not contain information pertaining to the Cross
 - . Paul refers to Old Testament scripture to debunk this excuse
 - . "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world" – Psalm 19:4
 - . Paul is arguing here that the apostolic testimony has also gone out to the whole world
 - . This verse in Psalm 19 proclaims the specific revelation of God through His Word
- . The second excuse: They did not understand – Romans 10:19
 - . Paul quotes here from Deuteronomy 32:21, Isaiah 65:1 and Isaiah 65:2
 - . These verses are meant to show that the Jews understood the gospel that was being preached to them
 - . The Jews reading this letter knew that the message being received by the gentiles was a message of salvation by the grace of God apart from the keeping of the law
 - . This message was not being taught as a contradiction of the law but as the fulfillment of the law

- . People reject the gospel today for exactly the same reason – they reject grace
 - . They may even hate it
 - . They do not accept it because they are angry with a God who refuses to play by their rules
 - . They want a God who takes note of their accomplishments and self-righteousness
- . The outstretched hands of God – Romans 10:20-21
 - . God extends His hands to the Gentiles who weren't even looking
 - . "I was found by those who did not seek me" – Isaiah 65:1
 - . He continues to stretch out His hands to the Jews who reject it
 - . "All day long I have held out my hands to the disobedient and obstinate people" – Isaiah 65:2
 - . There is even a greater contrast between God stretching out His hands in love to save sinners and the hardness of those who obstinately turn their back upon Him
 - . The messengers of His gospel have taken this good news literally around the world
 - . Yet people still turn from God with disobedience and obstinate hearts
 - . People crucified Jesus when He came the first time
 - . They would do it again if they had the opportunity
 - . Yet it is against this backdrop that the love of God, symbolized by His outstretched hands, shines most brightly
 - . One day judgment will come forth from God
 - . Those who have been disobedient and rebellious, who reject the gospel, will be punished with everlasting torment
 - . Fortunately, that end is not yet here
 - . Today is still the day of God's grace
 - . That is why Paul moves back into the subject of grace again in chapter 11, where he asks, "did God then reject His people?"
 - . He answers, "by no means"
 - . Regardless of where we find ourselves in relation to God, His hand remains outstretched and will remain so for the balance of our days here on Earth

NEXT LESSON – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020 – ROMANS 11:1-24