

Bible Study of Romans Romans 10:14-21

As we are studying the importance of saving faith in these verses, it is vital to remain clear in the definition of saving faith. Here are a few paragraphs on faith by Steele and Thomas.

The basic idea conveyed by the word faith is trust. The original Greek rendered "to believe" means, "To adhere to, to cleave, to trust, to have faith in, to rely on." Whether or not one's faith will save him depends upon the object. One can have faith without having 'saving faith.' Trust or reliance can be wrongly placed – if it is it will not result in justification.

The only faith that will put a sinner into a position of acceptance with God is a faith in Jesus Christ, His eternal Son. But faith in Him presupposes knowledge of His Person as the Son of God, the Lord of heaven, and of His Work (His sacrificial death for sinners and His resurrection from the dead). Without knowing Who He is and what He did, one could not trust Him or rely on Him for salvation.

Saving faith is not something residing in the soul of each individual needing only to be directed toward Christ in order to become effective, but is created in the soul by the Holy Spirit when the sinner is made alive.

*Saving faith, like repentance, is the fruit of regeneration. It is not man's gift to God but rather is itself a **gift from God**. Only the recipients of Holy Spirit's enlightening and the Father's drawing come to Christ and abide in Him. (John 6:44-45; 1 John 2:20, 27) Faith, like all other aspects of salvation, flows from the cross; it is a part of the salvation that Christ earned for His people. Faith is created in the hearts of God's elect when they are made alive by the almighty power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore the believer in Christ has no ground to boast for he was enabled to believe in Him by the grace of God.*

In the previous verses Paul has taught that the Gospel of Christ is adapted to the needs of all men. Both Jew and Gentile can and must be saved through the One and Only Way of Jesus Christ. In the following verses Paul taught that this Gospel must be preached to all men if they are to be saved (14-17).

1. Respond to the following statement: *Since God's sovereign decree rules over the salvation of sinners, we really shouldn't worry about the unsaved. They will be saved if God willed it, when and how He has decreed.*

2. Paul set out quite a clear 'chain of reasoning' in vs. 14-17. What are the various links of this chain of salvation? Which link is the most important or are all most important?

Before we look at the details, bear in mind that Paul is still working on the answer to the question why Israel refuses to recognize the Lord Jesus and submit to Him as their Messiah. This portion from vs. 14- 21 concludes with pointing out that the reason is not because they can plead ignorance as an excuse for their unbelief.

Vs. 14

3. Is the implication from this verse that 'none shall be saved who do not call upon Him?' If that is true, what consequence should we draw from that?

4. God has chosen the instrument of preachers to send forth the glad tidings from heaven. Why didn't God declare it directly from heaven so that all the earth may hear it?

5. Does this verse mean that men are only saved through the instrumentality of preachers?

Vs. 15

6. Find the OT origin of this quote about the 'beautiful feet' of the preachers. Why did the Holy Spirit guide Paul to choose this OT Scripture?

7. Meditate through the phrase 'the Gospel of peace and the glad tidings of good things.' What truths about God does this phrase reveal?

8. Why do sinners receive the 'glad tidings of the good things' while others completely reject it? Support your answer with Scripture.

Vs. 16

9. What is the point Paul makes in vs. 16a?

10. Paul used the word 'obeyed' not the Gospel. Isn't the Gospel to be believed rather than to be obeyed? For to obey something it must be a law or commandment but the Gospel is good tidings rather than a command?

Vs. 17

11. What is the intention of this conclusion within the 'context' of this chapter's purpose?

12. Is 'hearing' only with the ears or also with the eyes (through reading?)

vs. 18

13. What is the intent of this verse?

14. But how could Paul write at that stage of the history that the Gospel sound 'went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world?'

Vs. 19

15. Paul raised the possibility that Israel didn't "know." Know what?

16. How did Paul answer his own question? What does this solemn truth mean for us and our children?

Vs. 20-21

17. What is the intention of this quote from Isaiah 65:1?

18. What is meant by *outstretched hands*? What was their disobedience? What is gainsaying?

Reflection: What Gospel comforts did this chapter bring to you?