

## Romans 10-1 July 17, 2012

In our last study we covered the first verses of Romans chapter 10. Here Paul is making a statement about salvation and then posing a question. We have seen all through this study that Paul uses the typical rabbinic way of teaching that is asking questions. In a classroom setting this worked out in an interesting way. The rabbi would ask the student a question and the proper way for the student to respond was with a question of his own. If the student could ask a good question about the subject, then he clearly had grasped the subject and could discuss it. You will notice all through the gospels Jesus is asking questions. Sometimes I think this is a good way to present the gospel, rather than preaching to your friends, pray for God to help you ask them good questions so that they can see for themselves their lost condition.

So the question in Romans 10 is this; if God's salvation is for everyone, how can people cry out to God to save them if they have never heard of Him? In other words, how can anyone respond to the offer of salvation if it hasn't been made?

Next question; how can they hear unless someone tells them? Believers are sent to tell the Good News, we should be eager to share the Good News of salvation to all who will listen.

We begin our study where we left off last time;

Romans 10:16

Isaiah here is telling God that he went to tell the Jews but they would not listen, they had ears but did not hear. God did send messengers to His people, they refused to listen. Friends, does this describe you, you hear the word of God but it makes no difference in your life? Pray and ask God to give you ears to really hear what He is telling you, to give you an obedient heart-that is a willingness to obey. God will answer these prayers and teach you Himself, all that He wants you to know.

And so this verse is the main theme of this section of Romans

Romans 10:17

Phillips translations says; belief, you see can only come from hearing the message and the message is the Word of Christ."

This hearing has nothing to do with ears, we are not talking about the physical process of communication. This hearing takes place in the soul, The Word does its work and faith does its work the two combine to bring life from the dead and light out of darkness.

Here is your assignment for today; go and tell, friends, people need to hear the good news. By grace are you saved, through faith, it is a free gift. People must hear this message.

Just think of the power you are given, in Romans 1:16 we learn that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, you have this amazing promise, the telling of the gospel has the power of God behind it.

Keep in mind too, the devil has his religious messengers in the world. Jesus told some of the religious leaders of His day that they were not from God the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ but they were sent by their father, Satan. You can read this conversation in John 8:38-44

There are also messengers who are sent by men, not called by God. There are many false religions knocking on your door and they all have one thing in common; they do not hold to the divinity of Jesus Christ, oh they might say "He is the Son of God" but that is not the same thing as saying He is divine. "How do you know the true messenger who is sent by God? That one is faithful to the message of the gospel, exalting the LORD Jesus Christ, proclaiming to men the good news of salvation through Him and calling them to turn from their sins and come to Christ as Savior and Lord. They back all of their

proclamations by the authority of the Bible, and they call Christians to live lives of holiness and they are living examples of holiness". DG Barnhouse.

Quoting Dr. Barnhouse again; "as we study the written Word, we must never lose the reality of the living Word, which is to know Christ Himself. We must keep in mind that it is in the knowledge of the Bible that we are going to find the increase of our faith. It may be true that a man can come to a limited knowledge of the Savior with a limited knowledge of the Bible, but it must be understood that a man can never come to a great knowledge of the Savior without a great knowledge of the written Word of God. Faith comes from getting to know God personally. Faith comes out of what is heard and what is heard comes through the Word about Christ".

Romans 10:18

When Luke finished the book of Acts with Paul in Rome the gospel had been being preached for about 20 years. So you might try to argue that the Jews had not heard but Paul did not agree, notice back in Romans 1:18-20 Paul said they had plenty of evidence from the creation to see God's invisible attributes, that is His eternal power and divine nature because of what He has made, namely the world and all that is in it. Consider also Psalm 19:2-5 Did the Jews look around at this revelation of God and believe, no. Paul said they did know God but they did not honor Him as God, nor were they grateful and they made up their own religion, professing themselves to wise they became fools. Well that is not limited to the Jews it is going on all over the world today, people are refusing to honor God because they believe they are too wise for such naïveté and at the same time God calls them fools.

Romans 10:19

This is a quote from Deuteronomy 32:21 ending the argument that the Jews heard but did not understand that salvation was by faith rather than works and also it was for the Gentiles too. Friends, if the Jews knew their own scriptures they should have believed in Jesus. In addition, God made it clear in the Old Testament that He was going to offer salvation to Gentiles and this they should have understood too. God's purpose was to offer salvation to the whole world through Jesus.

Romans 10:20

This is a quote from Isaiah 65:1 Who were the people not looking for God? You and me perhaps, but all Gentiles. In early times the Gentiles may have believed that God was only interested in Israel. However, it turned out that when the Gentiles began seeking God, He revealed Himself to them and to us.

Romans 10:21

Isaiah 65:2

Paul explains God had been patient with his people, He graciously held out His arms calling His people to Him. People like us who did not deserve to know Him or be called His, yet He never gave up on us, while we were still sinners He died for us.

God is still faithful to His promises to the Jews and He is still holding out His arms, whosoever will, may come.

Not all of Israel rejected God's message of salvation and their Messiah, there have always been a few faithful, godly remnant. Paul knew there were a few faithful in the church at Rome. Remember too, Paul was a Jew and so were the disciples and almost all the early Christian missionaries. God is eventually going to bring a few or a remnant of Jews back to Himself, yes, and God's plan still includes the Jews. This truth should put to rest any anti-Semitism,

Romans 11:1-2

Has God rejected Israel, who He foreknew? NO. What did God foreknow about Israel? He knew they would reject Him, kill the prophets He sent them, ignore His written revelation and finally kill His Son. His foreknowledge of their abominable behavior and apostasy did not keep Him from following through on His promises. His foreknowledge of our abominable behavior did not keep Him from revealing Himself to us and saving our souls when we believed.

Have you heard about Replacement Theology?

The followers of this doctrine wrongly teach that since Israel sinned and rejected their Messiah, then God has "forgotten" them and "replaced them" with the church. Nothing could be further from the truth. Jewish disobedience has never annulled God's promises to Israel because God's free gifts and his calling are irrevocable (binding or unchangeable) 11v29.

To prove God has not rejected Israel, we will see many promises in this chapter that have yet to be fulfilled.

Romans 11:3-5

Paul's first evidence that God has not forsaken Israel is Paul's own ministry. God has not cast aside the Jews, Paul is living evidence. Paul is a physical descendent of Abraham through Benjamin, which was easily verified. Remember how often Paul talks about his Judaism, he was proud of his heritage.

So Paul begins with his own lineage based in the Old Testament then cites others such as Elijah, who thought he was the only faithful Jew.

These verses refer to Elijah's great victory over the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 17-19. The King of Israel, Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, were two of the most wicked, apostate people of Israel and ironically they were the leaders. In 1 Kings 16:30 it says; "Ahab, the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD more than all who were before him. It came about, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, that he married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians and went to serve Baal and worshiped him. Later we read "Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him. So it was inevitable they led Israel into idol worship including Baal and Asherah. These terrible demon gods demanded human sacrifice, and so babies were burned alive in worship ceremonies. Friends, how far from God can people get? Killing babies to help yourself, a terrible crime. Remember Elijah had challenged King Ahab to gather the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah and meet him on Mt. Carmel for a showdown. The purpose of this was to demonstrate to the people of Israel that the Lord is God, not Baal. In the presence of the King (Jezebel did not show up for this) all the prophets of Baal and Asherah built an altar and prayed all day that fire would come down and consume the sacrifice. The bible says they yelled and screamed, they danced and cut themselves and raved on until evening and there was no voice or response. Then Elijah built an altar, placed on it a sacrifice and poured water on it. Then he simply asked God to let it be known He is God. The bible says the fires of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and the water that was in the trench. Then the people said "The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God". After this all the false prophets were killed and then Elijah ran for his life to get away from the wicked Jezebel who worshiped Baal and Asherah. So Elijah showed the people the true God but was frightened of Jezebel and was busy having a pity party when he told God he was the only one left who worshiped Him. Friend, did you ever feel you are the only one in the world who loves God and tries to follow Him? Then God spoke to Elijah and said in essence, Elijah, you don't know everything, I have reserved for Myself 7000 men who worship the true and living God".

And Paul said here in Romans that God still has a remnant of Israel who worships Him in spirit and in truth.

What is a remnant? Searching the Internet there are various opinions from 1/6 to 1/10. I can find no specific formula in the bible. I think we can agree that a remnant is a very small part. Of all the millions of Israel's people at that time of King Ahab, God said He had a remnant of 7000 who were faithful, which is a very little part.

However remember too God said He has reserved them, they were His, He was caring for them, by His own gracious choice. This proves God has not rejected Israel.

Romans 11:6

Here we return to the main theme of Romans; God's grace. God's grace, His unmerited favor. Because salvation is by grace, works have no part in it. The reason that this is true is that works begin in the heart of man. The whole idea of works is that man can somehow provide a basis to force God to give him some blessings as a just reward for his works. The whole idea of grace is that God acts toward

man entirely according to that which found in His own divine nature of love. Friends, these two ideas are mutually exclusive.

Romans 11:7-9

These verses summarize chapters 9-11. We see that God has not rejected Israel so what is their position with God? Recall that God did not push Israel away from Himself, Israel pushed God away. We saw that Israel had zeal or a passion to establish their righteousness but they wanted to do that their own way. Their zeal was not according to knowledge, they were ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God and they were trying to do it themselves according to Romans 10:2-3. We saw that their own scriptures showed them the way of righteousness by faith but they were not willing to accept that. If they had called upon the name of the LORD they would have been saved. Friend are you working passionately for your salvation, trying hard to please God?

You cannot force God to save your soul based on what He owes you for your good works. That is zeal without knowledge.

DG Barnhouse says; " God pointed down to Christ as a lowly stone lying on the ground, despised and rejected by men, but a stone whom He intended to make the Head of the corner. They looked away from the ground and stumbled over the stone. It was their failure to accept the fact that the way to God's righteousness is by the recognition of human sin and declaration of total dependence on the substitute Savior that led them far from God."

Let me remind you that in the midst of all this failure of Israel was a faithful remnant.

Paul quoted from Deuteronomy 29:4 and Isaiah 29:10 telling us that Israel's unresponsiveness was like a deep sleep. When people repeatedly refuse to listen to God's Good News, they eventually will be unable to hear and understand it. It is like they are asleep.

Romans 11:9-10

This quote is from Psalm 69:22-23 These words of David were originally a curse directed at Israel's enemies but Paul turns the curse around and points it toward the Jews. All the blessings should have drawn Israel to God and thus to Christ but they became a snare or a trap. The blessings led to pride and selfishness, all taking them away from God. So they missed their Messiah when He came but they also persecuted and killed Him. How like Israel is America. All the great blessings God has given us has led to pride, laziness and sin, instead of leading us to God.