“A Mouthpiece for the Gospel”

Romans 10:14-21

6-14-2025 - HRM

INTRODUCTION:

***As God's servant, you need to be ready always to witness for Christ!**
(Be a mouthpiece for God!)

To share the Gospel is to proclaim:

I. An <u>ESSENTIAL</u> message (v. 14-15a)

A. The essential of <u>believing</u> the Gospel

B. The essential of <u>hearing</u> the Gospel

C. The essential of <u>proclaiming</u> the Gospel

D. The essential of <u>God's commission</u>

To share the Gospel is to proclaim:

II. A <u>POSITIVE</u> message (v. 15b)

To share the Gospel is to proclaim:

III. An often <u>UNWANTED</u> message (v. 16-21)

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6-28-2020

INTRODUCTION:

Note: The teaching in chapter 10, like chapters 9 and 11, involves the nation of Israel, her rejection of the Gospel, and her full responsibility for such rejection.

Previously, Paul described the availability of the Gospel (v. 6-8), the simplicity of the Gospel (v. 9), and the universality of the Gospel (v. 10-13).

Now, he unveils the importance of sharing the Gospel.

I Peter 3:15 - "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

After stating that anyone who calls upon the Lord will be saved (v. 13), Paul in verses 14 and 15 outlines the steps that must be taken before this call can be made (Kreloff, "The Charge Against Israel," Israel My Glory, Feb. 89, p. 24).

***As God's servant, you need to be ready always to witness for Christ!**
(Be a mouthpiece for God!)

To share the Gospel is to proclaim:

I. An ESSENTIAL message (v. 14-15a)

"The Apostle works backward by stages, dwelling on the
1) calling, 2) believing, 3) hearing, 4) preaching, 5) sending." (Thomas., p. 283).

In verses 14 & 15 Paul moves down the ladder from effect to cause.

A. The essential of believing the Gospel

God's salvation is applied to the sinner the instant he calls upon the Lord and receives Christ.

V. 14

Believing on Him (v. 11) and calling on Him (v. 12-13) are closely related. One precedes the other and leads to the other.

Belief comes immediately before one calls upon the Lord for salvation. EX: Paul came to believe that Jesus was "Lord" in Acts 9:5ff, but he did not call upon Christ until he met Ananias (cp. Acts 9:17-18 with Acts 22:16).

Salvation is not a mere calling on the Lord ("asking Jesus to come into your heart").

The calling must be founded upon belief. Belief implies an accurate understanding of the Gospel. Many so-called "professions of faith" today are lacking the essential bedrock, foundational teaching of the substitutionary death of Christ (when witnessing, make sure they understand the Gospel - I Cor. 15:1-4).

For someone to call upon Christ without knowing who He is or what He has done for them is fruitless. Many have "another Jesus."

B. The essential of hearing the Gospel

Just as believing is a prerequisite to calling, hearing is a prerequisite to believing.

No one can believe God's Word until they hear God's Word (cp. v. 17). [NOTE: Hearing God's Word was especially vital to the early church because not everyone had the availability of a complete Bible like we have today. The Gospel passed on by word of mouth.]

One can hear without believing (Heb. 4:2), but one cannot believe without hearing (or coming in contact with the Gospel).

The world listens to many voices, many messages, many bits of information daily, yet the most vital, necessary, important truth to be heard is that of the Gospel.

Ephes. 1:13 - "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise."

Handing out a tract is great, but don't stop there. Give the Gospel.

Inviting someone to church is commendable, but don't limit your words to an invitation to come to church. Invite them to Christ!

V. 14

People must not only see the Gospel (in your life - EX: "lifestyle evangelism"), they must hear the Gospel (from your lips).

C. The essential of <u>proclaiming</u> the Gospel

V. 14

"Preacher" = lit. "one preaching" - a herald. Someone who proclaims or publishes a message. This activity is not limited to a pastor or evangelist.

The word describes a delivered demon-possessed man -Mk. 5:20 - "And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel."

The word is used to describe a cleansed leper who "published it much" and began to "blaze abroad the matter" (Mk. 1:45).

The word is given in a command that applies to all believers - "God ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15).

God has chosen the "foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (I Cor. 1:21).

God has "manifested his Word through preaching" (Titus 1:3).

V. 17

"Hearing (comes) by the Word of God"

"Word" = "rhema" - oral communication, the spoken word, the Gospel articulated.

God is referring to our speaking what He has written.

A different word: "Logos" - refers primarily to the written word. Our oral testimony is always based on the Bible.

Faith comes when we verbally share God's Word with the lost.

Many own a Bible, but will never understand it's theme without a Christian filled with the Author of the Bible (the Spirit of God - II Pet. 1:21) coming to them and explaining its message.

EX: Philip and the Eunich - "How can I (understand) except some man should guide me?" (Acts 8:31).

D. The essential of <u>God's commission</u>

God is the initiator of our salvation! He is the bottom line.

V. 15

Who does the sending? God does - through the local church.

If God had not sent us forth with a message, our words would be useless.

To share the Gospel is to proclaim:

II. A <u>POSITIVE</u> message (v. 15b)

V. 15

What are the feet described as beautiful? Why not the mouth that utters the message? Why not the eyes or gestures which express the Gospel's wonder?

Why the feet? Answer: God wants us to GO.
God wants us to physically bring the message to those in need of it.

NOTE: In God's list of the believer's armor, He commands us to have our "<u>feet</u> shod (fitted) with the preparation of the Gospel of peace" (Eph. 6:15).

I may wear a size 12, have blisters, athlete's feet, corns, and untrimmed toenails,
but God says if I share the Gospel I have beautiful feet!

NOTE: The "gospel" (good news) and "glad tidings" is described as a message of:

1) "<u>peace</u>"
2) "<u>good things</u>"

SEE: Is. 52:7 - In the context of Isaiah's prophecy this verse describes the proclamation of victory in the future kingdom and restoration of Israel.

The <u>way</u> we proclaim the Gospel should match the <u>contents</u> of the Gospel.

We should be joyful and enthusiastic when sharing the Gospel.

Does your demeanor turn people off?

NOTE: The word order: "peace," then "good things."

No one receives the good things of God unless they have peace with God (Rom. 8:1).

To share the Gospel is to proclaim:

III. An often <u>UNWANTED</u> message (v. 16-21)

V. 16

"Obeyed" = to listen with a submissive heart.

ILLUS: the rejection of God's Gospel by two men at Harrington Lake, Maine, summer 1990.

V. 16-17

The word "believed" (v. 16) corresponds to "faith" (v. 17); and the word "report" (v. 16) to "hearing" (v. 17).

V. 18

Has Israel heard? ILLUS: children who constantly use the excuse "I didn't hear you."

Will they be able to say at the Judgment, "Nobody told me"?

Paul quotes Ps. 19:4, which in context describes the testimony of creation to the glory of God (cp. Rom. 1:20).

Has Israel known? (v. 19-21).

They knew the truth God, yet rebelled against such knowledge.

God therefore said He would lift up other people not related to Him, as Israel was, and favor them instead (cp. Deut. 32:21).

V. 21

"...I have stretched forth My hands."

God's gracious offer of life was and is extended even to those who are under His wrath.

Note the phrase in Isaiah, "But His hand is stretched out still" (SEE: Is. 5:25; 9:12, 17, 21; 10:4).

As long as God's hand of mercy is stretched out we must invite men to the spiritual wealth in His hands (Rom. 10:12).

"Gainsaying" = obstinate or contradicting

Israel had witnesses from A - Z (prophets from righteous Abel unto Zacharias - Mt. 23:35).

ILLUS: The parable of the King's wedding for His Son (the rejection of Israel) - Matt. 22:1-14.

God gives patience and "thick skin" for his witnesses to handle <u>rejection</u>.

We must be willing to share the Gospel even to those we think will not want to hear -

EX: Jews
Catholics
Muslims
Agnostics and "atheists"

CONCLUSION:

The essential element to people being saved is YOU!

God wants to use your mouth to utter his message, your tongue to articulate His truth, your vocal cords to herald His Gospel.

Today will you say, "Here am I Lord, send me"? "Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee"