"They Need to HEAR"

Romans 10:17 & Selected Scriptures

10/30/2011

INTRODUCTION: Romans 10:17

Mark 16:15
And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

***All believers have an obligation to make sure that everyone we make contact with (for any length of time) has the opportunity to hear about God's offer of salvation.**

Why do they need to hear? Why do they need to hear from you?

They need to hear because…

I. God Requires Faith for Salvation (Romans 10:14-15a)

They need to hear because…

II. Faith Comes by Hearing God's Gospel Message (Romans 10:15b-17)

They need to hear because…

III. You May Be Their Only Link to Making Contact with the Gospel (2 Cor.5:18-20)

Conclusion: If not by you, then who?
If not now, when?

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INTRODUCTION: Romans 10:17

We hear all kinds of information on a daily basis.
We hear words and messages that flow into our ears from the TV, Radio, Internet, CDs & DVDs.
We hear communication & conversation with family, friends & contacts in the world.

The most vital information the world must hear is God's Gospel Message!

Romans 10:11

The emphasis in verses 11-13 is on the all-inclusive, universal impartial nature of God's offer of salvation.

NOTE: "whosoever (v. 11). . . no difference. . . all. . . all (v. 12) . . . whosoever (v. 13). . ."

God's imputed "righteousness" and imparted "salvation" (v. 10) are guaranteed to all who believe (v. 11).

"Believeth on Him" - Belief is a dependence upon, or reliance on someone; not a mere awareness of Someone.

"Shall not be ashamed" - passive = "shall not be put to shame. God will not let down one single person who believes on Christ.

"No difference" = no distinction; God is not partial.
Proofs:

1)He is Lord over all

2)He is right to all who call.

V. 12

"Rich unto all" - SEE Psalm 145:13-21 (NOTE: the many references to "all").

God, being rich (wealthy), has enough salvation to go around. His priceless salvation will got o all who call upon Him for it.

The quoted reference specifically promises salvation to those who call upon the Lord in the Day of the Lord (Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21). Paul's usage of it shows it has a wider, universal application.

V. 13

If God's atonement was limited, He could not legitimately offer salvation to all (cp. -

I Jn. 2:2 - "And he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

I Tim. 2:4, 6 - "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. . . Who gave himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time."

Rev. 22:17 - "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

Salvation is an open invitation!

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 people hearing 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."

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I. God Requires Faith for Salvation (Romans 10:14-15a)

"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.

It is essential to believe 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."

They need to hear because…

II. Faith Comes by Hearing God's Gospel Message (Romans 10:15b-17

The essential of <u>hearing</u> 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 <u>see</u> the Gospel (in your <u>life</u> - EX: "lifestyle evangelism"), they must <u>hear</u> the Gospel (from your <u>lips</u>).

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).

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.

They need to hear because…

III. You May Be Their <u>Only Link</u> to Making Contact with the Gospel (2 Cor.5:18-20)

See 2 Corinthians 5 - Sinners must be reconciled to God.

Reconciliation is <u>announced and promoted</u> by <u>Christian witnesses</u> (v.18c, 19c, 20)

v. 20

While no one (pope or otherwise) has the authority to be the vicar (substitute) of Christ on earth, it can be said that every believer stands in His stead and speaks for Him when we share the Gospel.

"We are ambassadors for Christ" - An ambassador is one who fulfills the task and speaks and carries out the wishes for the one who sent him. He speaks on behalf of the sender (who might be an emperor or king).

"<u>For</u> Christ" – (*huper*) on behalf of Christ. When we witness, we do so on behalf of our King, Jesus.

"What is an ambassador? Think about that question for a minute. Ambassadors spend their lives on foreign soil. They speak a different language than the people. They have different traditions, customs, cultures and lifestyles. They always feel somewhat like a stranger. They speak on behalf of their country, conveying its ideals, its policies, its decisions. And. . . the reputation of their country rests in their hands. For good or for bad, their country is judged by their words and by their actions." (Swindoll, p. 80).

"We need to fulfill the role of a good ambassador. Not to speak on our behalf but on the behalf of Christ. Not to act on our own authority but on the authority of Christ. Not to further our own little kingdom but the kingdom of Christ." (Swindoll, p. 81).

"Christ. . . God" – Note how the words are used interchangeably. To be an ambassador for Christ is to be an ambassador for God, because Christ is God.

God makes His appeal to lost sinners through His saved saints. Just as Jesus preached through Noah in His day (1 Peter. 3:19-20), so He speaks through His

children today!

Reconciliation is <u>available</u> upon <u>repentance and faith</u> in Christ (v.20b-21)

v. 18
Although God does the work of reconciling sinful people to Himself, He has given us a part in the reconciliation process.

We have the privilege of sharing God's gracious truth with others.

v. 19
"The word of reconciliation" – We don't reconcile man to God; we simply speak God's message and leave the reconciling to God. Ours is the ministry of the <u>Word</u>.

v. 20
"Beseech you" – we urge you; we entreat you.

"We pray you" - to repeatedly ask.

There ought to be some persuasive strong appeal in our witness.

When was the last time you strongly urged someone to be reconciled to God through Christ?

The very fact that we need to be reconciled implies that we are not automatically born reconciled to God. Rather, we are at enmity with God.

"Be ye reconciled to God" –

1) The <u>imperative</u> mood shows the <u>urgency</u> of reconciliation. It is no little matter; your entire eternal destiny hinges on whether or not you are reconciled to God.

No reconciliation = No Heaven (no eternal life).

2) The passive voice shows the sovereign work of God in reconciliation. He does the work, we receive it.

“Reconciliation is not something man does but what he receives; it is not what he accomplishes but what he embraces” (John MacArthur, p. 200).

We must yield and trust Christ and He will do the instantaneous miracle of reconciling us to Himself.

Conclusion:

The Salvation of Isaac McKay - prisoner in Riker's Island on Oct.28, 2011

If not by you, then who?
If not now, when?