

Gamma

Romans 9:30-10:21

Study 15 Our Responsibility

Case 1

A prominent lay preacher got up to preach in a mega church in Melbourne recently and talked about the miracle of the feeding the 5000 in the gospel of Mark. Throughout the message the emphasis was on bringing what we have to the Lord who will use it miraculously for His kingdom. He ended his sermon with a challenge to anyone who wanted to follow Jesus to just put up their hands to receive Christ. Several people did and the sermon ended

- 1. Paul writes “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ “(Romans 10:17 ESV). Look in the context of Romans 10 what does this word of Christ mean?**

Romans 10:8-9 very clearly says there must be belief in the work of Christ the God raised him from the dead which then implies that the person must know why he died for him and the receive Jesus means to call and live with Jesus as His Lord..as His God in absolute surrender and control

- 2. Did the preacher in this church adequately share the gospel by just asking anyone who wanted to accept Jesus to put up their hands? Do you think the people in the congregation if they were genuinely non Christians understood what it meant to receive Jesus?**

The challenge to receive Christ was done almost as an after thought in this sermon tacked on in the end with no real sharing of what it means to have faith in Jesus. True faith needs the gospel to pin this faith upon. Zeal without truth like the Jews is useless. He should have at least mentioned about sin and Jesus death for our sins and the resurrection for eternal life.

Case 2

Jack was sharing the gospel with a friend who had been attending Alpha in his church for some time. There came a time when most of his questions were answered and he was challenged to receive Jesus as Lord. He then started to question as to how God was so unfair in Romans 9:14-18 that he predestined some people to be saved and others if they were not predestined then they would be eternally damned in hell. He cannot accept Christ because he felt he is not predestined

1. How would you explain to Jack's friend about salvation when he is concerned that he might not predestined to salvation? He says that even Israel, God's chosen people did not become Christians hence even they who were supposed to be Christian were not chosen. How can he be one as he is worse off than them as he is considered a Gentile

Yes it is true that God's sovereignty means that He has predestined to have mercy on people which is clearly stated in Romans 9:14-18

However show him

"What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; 31 but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works"

(Romans 9:30-32 ESV)

The Gentiles like him ironically were more likely to be saved despite the fact that they did not have all the privilege of the being the chosen people and having God's covenant and law . Hence he should not feel that he is worse off then the Jews.

Israel insisted on working to earn merit and gain their own righteousness by obeying the law. This they did not succeed in doing.

True salvation comes from a righteousness that only God can give to us if we put our faith in Jesus.

The bible says

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved

(Romans 10:9-10 ESV)

This is a simple 2 step process and salvation is open to everyone because

"Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his

*riches on all who call on him. 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved
(Romans 10:11-13 ESV) God sent his Son Jesus who paid the penalty of our sins.*

Israel failed to trust Jesus and insisted on working for their own salvation. The fault lay not with them being chosen or not chosen, predestined or not predestined. The issue is a bold faced refusal to receive Jesus by faith

Today the gospel makes it clear that anyone, and everyone who calls upon the name of Jesus can be saved. Paul makes it very clear that the issue is not speculating whether or one is predestined but whether one is willing to believe in Christ. It cannot be fairer, salvation is open to every single person. God is the God of all.

Question 2

**Look at Romans 10:14-17 What do these verses tell us about evangelism?
How are faith and hearing the word related in your own life?**

There are four verbs that tell us how evangelism works.

“Sent” v.15 means that messengers must be sent. The Greek word *apostello* (“sent”) probably means Paul is thinking about the apostles themselves. So we see that the first step in evangelism is that Christ sent us authoritative witnesses and teachers, whose message is in the Bible. Probably “sent” also refers to how Christ through his church sends out missionaries, preachers, and lay people to be messengers of that apostolic word.

“Preach” v.14c is the word *kerysso*, which was meant to be a “herald” or to make announcements. A herald was in a sense a living newspaper — heralds were a major means of transmitting news in the marketplace and city streets. So the word “preach” does not refer only to what today are called “sermons.” Heralds operated in the streets.

“Heard” v.14b. Paul probably has more in mind than mere exposure. This means that saving faith cannot happen mystically, but has to occur in response to the content really penetrating the understanding. For example, just to read the Bible does not save — it is not a process of magic. The message of the Bible needs to really be *heard*, understood. A person cannot believe unless the message is given a hearing.

“Believe” v.13. This is what makes us Christians.

So what Paul is teaching about evangelism is:

A. It is absolutely necessary: “How can they believe without someone

preaching to them” v.15.

- B. It requires a willingness to speak out (preach).
- C. It requires not just proclamation but persuasion, getting a person’s understanding (hear).
- D. It requires the transmission of a body of truth that is not a person’s opinion but the authoritative revelation from Christ and his apostles.

All Christians experience their need for more faith than they have. Our faith is not only born of an understanding of the word of God (Scripture) when we are converted, but it continues to grow only to the degree that we grow in hearing the Word. The deeper our understanding of the Word, and the more often we “hear” it, the greater our faith.

After studying the book of Romans do you think you are now in a position to be able to share with your friend or a family member about the gospel?

Can some of you in the group try to share the gospel to group members in role play and others can play a role in providing input.

Meditation

As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news
(Romans 10:15 ESV)

What wrong attitudes do I need to repent of

What is it in these verses that bring comfort.

What is it in these verses that build me up

Meditate on these for the next week and come back to share with each other how God has spoken to you through the Holy Spirit.

