

Romans 10:14-21

When ancient Israel was oppressed by the Egyptians and the nation was rife with idolatry (**Isaiah 52**), in order to calm and comfort the hearts of His faithful remnant, God revealed a future when things would be different, when heralds would proclaim good news among the nations (**Isa. 52:7-9**).

Paul declares the fulfillment of another ancient prophecy. It has arrived with the coming of Jesus Christ-the eschatological age has broken into this present evil age. The period of the last days does not mean that God's people merely sit by and watch the show. They must tell the lost and dying world of the impending judgment to come and the only way of escape in Jesus Christ.

Summary

In Romans 10:14-21, Paul shows that God has called His people to the foolish task of preaching the gospel to publish the inaugurated reign of Christ and the comfort He brings to His people.

1. Necessary Preachers vv. 14-15

Previously in the book of Romans (**Rom. 10:1-13**), Paul emphasized that salvation and justification come through faith in Christ and that anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. This leads some obvious questions (**Rom. 10:14-15**). The only way people will believe in the gospel is if someone preaches the good news to them. God ordains the ends, the salvation and damnation of whomsoever He chooses but He also ordains the means by which He accomplishes His will (**LBC 3.1**). The decree of election does not make evangelism and preaching redundant, it ensures their success. Like the messenger who runs back to the city to inform its inhabitants that their armies have been successful in battle, preachers herald the good news that God has come in the flesh and conquered sin and death. Paul quotes **Isaiah 52:7** to prove that God fulfills His covenant promises and to instruct the church to preach the good news of the gospel. Preachers and every member of Christ's church can rest in God's sovereignty and approach the lost with the message of the gospel

2. Global Scope vv. 16-21

To what extent should the church herald the gospel of Christ (**Rom 10:16-17**)? Behind the preaching of the gospel lies God sovereign election (**Rom. 9:13**). Hence Paul says, "but they have not all obeyed the gospel" (**Rom 10:16**). Israel rejected the message in Isaiah's day and in Paul's day but the gospel must be preached regardless because faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. This means that if the nations are to have any hope of embracing Christ, then the gospel must go out to the whole world (**Rom. 10:18**).

Paul poses the rhetorical question that maybe the Jews have not heard the gospel. The gospel has gone throughout the world and so the Jews cannot claim ignorance of it (**Rom. 10:19-21**). Paul quotes **Deut 32:21** to remind his Jewish readers that they would reject the gospel and God would therefore give it to the Gentiles.

What would happen to the Jews then? Moses states that God would provoke Israel to jealousy by giving the gospel to the Gentiles.

Paul quotes **Isa. 65:1** to substantiate his claim that God told the Jews He would give His gospel to the Gentiles. Paul reiterates the point that he made at the beginning of chapter 10, that the Jews have a zeal but not according to knowledge.

3. Church's Task

The church must preach the gospel to the nations.

The dawning of the last days gives prominence to the preaching of the gospel.

This does not mean that every Christian is called to the task of preaching.

Paul says that the gospel requires preachers, so the church must send them (**11:15**).

Christ connects gospel preaching to the Great Commission (**Matt. 28:18-20**).

Christ gave the commission to the apostles, which they in turn passed to preachers like Timothy and other faithful men (**2 Tim 2:2**).

The church must see that her preachers carry out this task.

Hence, preachers must herald the gospel of peace and not adulterate it.

Not only must preachers stand firm on the gospel, but the church must support faithful preachers and reject those who do not preach it.

Also God does not always intend to have the preaching of the Gospel save. It is sometimes a tool of judgment. We should not be discouraged by the appearance of few conversions. Rather, we must be faithful to ensure that ministers faithfully preach the gospel. We can intercede in prayer on their behalf, financially contribute to the ministry of the church, pray for church planters and missionaries.

4. Awesome Realities

We must realize the awesome realities that occur each and every Sunday when we gather for worship and hear the gospel. We participate in the fulfillment of great eschatological prophecies, whether as one who preaches or as one who sits under the preaching of the gospel. Isaiah prophesied that there would be a great day when this would happen, and indeed we are living in that day.

Cling to the gospel, therefore, for it is the announcement of peace and salvation to all who place their faith in Christ.

Implore others to heed the preaching of the gospel, for we should, like Paul, desire to see our brethren saved

Rest assured that the sovereign power of God stands behind the preaching of the gospel of Christ. If we preach, people will be saved.