

8/3/11

**THE EPISTLE LESSON** Romans 10:(1-4) 5-17 page

*(Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.)*

**(1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.** 2 For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. 3 Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.)

5 Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them." 6 But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: 9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, **"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."** (Joel 2:32, Acts 2:21)

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" 16 But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" 17 **Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.**

**THE GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 14:22-33 page

*(Jesus shows himself Lord of Creation and strengthens His disciples' faith.)*

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" 32 And when

they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

**The Sermon            "God's plan to Reach the World – Everyone"**  
**Romans 10**

1 Corinthians 2 14 The man without the **Spirit** does not accept the things that come from the **Spirit** of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: 16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Saved by faith, not deeds of law

Believe and justified, confess and saved

How can you call if you don't know?

Great mysteries – how does God work? Believe in Him, call on him.

But how call if don't know

How about those who have heard and haven't believed

Faith comes by hearing, hearing comes by the Word of Christ

Bottom line – share the word and let God work.

Long dissertation, chapters 9-11 on what happens to the jews,  
Very academic, yet very passionate

Ultimately it is a mystery;

But, everyone who calls on the name of the lord will be saved

INTRO – How many of you like to watch TV? I confess that there aren't many shows I enjoy anymore. Some I am ashamed come across my TV. But, I do like to watch sports. I do enjoy some of the crime dramas, and some movies. So, if you enjoy watching TV, who can explain to me how your television works? I once read that a beam of electricity shoots 600 lines in a short period of time. But, even that does not explain television to me so I could built one, so I could make one work. Ultimately, I know that TV works, but it is a mystery.

- I. Today's lesson confronts a mystery about which Paul is Passionate. He is concerned about people being saved.
  - A. Paul says in Romans 10: **1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.**
    1. Paul wants his people, his nation, the people of the promise to receive the good news of Jesus.
    2. But, look at what he admits in verse 16, **But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?"**
    3. Actually today's lesson is part of a 3 chapter discourse by Paul on his passion for the Jews that they might be saved.
    4. But, ultimately, it is a mystery. As he says in the last 4 verses of this section of Romans, in chapter 11, **33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! 34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" 35 "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.**
  - B. I am sure that many of understand Paul's passion.
    1. Perhaps you have people you care deeply about who do not believe in Jesus, or do not practice their faith in a way that shows it is real.
    2. If we believe that God love us in this life and eternally by grace through Jesus, we want that for those we love.
    3. But, sometimes there is a wall to our efforts. What do we do?
  - C. We should not be surprised that we don't know everything. We don't necessarily understand TV's, and we certainly don't understand everything about God.
    1. **34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord?"**
    2. Yet, we still want God's love for our loved ones.
- II. Just because don't understand how a television works, doesn't mean we don't know that it DOES work.
  - A. Paul knows that people are saved by God.
    1. He talks about the fact that we are not saved by work, but by faith, by believing, by faith that acts and confesses God.
    2. Ultimately Paul puts his hope in promises of God.

3. Joel 2:32, which Peter quotes on Pentecost day says, **"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."**
- B. You see, God works through Jesus.
1. Remember **34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord?"**
  2. But we do know that God himself, the Son of God, died to pay our punishment for our sin.
  3. We do know that Jesus rose and has won victory over Satan who tempts us to sin, over the sin that causes death, over the death that we cannot overcome ourselves.
  4. We do know that God saves by faith, not by keeping the law, that God wants people to be saved, that **"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."**
- C. But not everyone believes.
1. How can you believe if you haven't heard?
  2. How can you hear if no one is sent?
  3. For Paul, the bottom line to God's promise as He seeks to reach His people is verse 17, **17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.**
- III. If I plug my TV in, if I have a source of signal, and if I turn it on and it works, that's about all I need to know.
- A. Paul knows **faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.**
1. So, the Word is the tool of God.
  2. Speak the Word that Jesus is Lord, that God raised Him from the dead, as it says in verse 7.
  3. Now let God work in His mysterious ways.
- B. So, you know those people you care about who don't know Jesus. Paul gives us practical instruction.
1. In verse 1 he says, **1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.** PRAY for God to work in the hearts of your family and friends.
  2. And in verse 17 he says, **faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.**
  3. Then, even if you don't know how God does it, trust God to work in his way of mystery, of power, of grace, and of love.

CONCLUSION – The person who throughout history has exemplified this approach is Monica. Her son was raised in the faith, but as a teenager he went astray. He lived a life of alcohol and had children outside of marriage. He turned away from the faith in which he was raised. Monica continued to pray for Him, continued to love him. One day his life turned. Monica didn't do anything other than pray, and share the word of God. God, in his mysterious, gracious, loving ways worked on the heart of Augustine, who became St. Augustine, one of the greatest leaders ever in the church. God works mysteriously to bring people to faith. But there are some things that we can understand. **"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."** And

**faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.** We share God's Word, pray, and let Him work faith. Amen.