



## PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS –The Heart of Unbelief

Community Group Study Guide Romans 10:16-21 – Week of September 16, 2022

### 1. Not all who hear will obey

While belief comes through the preaching of the Gospel, the preaching of the Gospel doesn't always cause those who hear it to believe. Many who hear the gospel will refuse it. God is sovereign, and we should not be discouraged when it seems like our proclamation does not resonate. Throughout history, this pattern of people hearing the word of God, and rejecting it is common. We should not be discouraged by this rejection, but allow it to fuel our desire to increase our knowledge and ability to preach. The word of God does not return void, and we should put our faith in God's ability.

### 2. Unbelief is not due to a lack of hearing or knowledge.

Paul corrects these ideas of ignorance with scripture. First, he points to the Psalms, in which it declares that the words of the Gospel have gone out to all the earth. Paul is reminding us that God declares that the Jews have heard the Gospel, and so they do not have that excuse. Furthermore, but debunks the idea that they did not understand what they have heard. Quoting from Moses, he shows that the foolish nation (Gentiles) have understood the Gospel. The source of the unbelief in the Jewish people isn't because they lacked hearing or knowledge.

### 3. The Heart of Unbelief is a Heart of Unbelief

God has held out His hands to the Jewish people, and their response has been to reject Him. They have been contrary and disobedient. The primary driver of their unbelief is not that they lack information... it is because their hearts are hardened against God. God has provided His oracles and promises, and yet the Jews reject Him. They are without excuse. The lesson for us is to have a humble and contrite heart, and to submit to the Lord.

## DISCUSSION GOALS

### Head

The reason that the Jewish people rejected the Gospel was not that they lacked information. Their disbelief is from a heart that is willfully ignorant, rebellious against God.

### Heart

Our desire should be for a humble and submissive heart before the Lord. The Gospel should soften our hearts, not harden them.

### Hands

We should be steadfast in preaching, knowing the beauty of the Gospel, and the sovereignty of God.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Prayer Night

October 2 @ 5pm

### Baptism Seminar

October 2 @ 1pm

### Worship Night

October 7 @ 6pm

## **Read Romans 10:16-21**

1. In Verse 16, Paul asserts that some will reject the Gospel. Does this perspective make you more or less confident in proclaiming it? Why?
2. Looking at the passage, how does Paul respond to these assertions about the Jewish people? What can we learn from this pattern? Why is responding this way important?
3. What does it mean to have a contrary heart? Why is understanding the position of the heart so important?
4. In verse 21, God is addressing those who refuse to believe, and refuse to obey. Where do you still fall prey to this rebellion? What is the antidote? What scripture do you use to combat it?
5. A common pushback to God and to the Gospel is the concern for people who have not heard the message. What is our response to this question?
6. Pastor Andy encouraged us to avoid over intellectualizing the Gospel? What does this mean? How does this practically play out? What is the proper response in these moments?
7. What is grace? How has it affected you? What are the consequences of grace being demonstrated in your life?