

ROMANS

KNOW THE TRUTH

July 28, 2024

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SERMON: God Sends Messengers With Good News

SCRIPTURE: Romans 10:14-21

SUMMARY: The vehicle of the Gospel is Proclamation! In Romans 10:14-21, the Apostle Paul discusses the necessity of proclaiming the gospel and the accountability of those who hear it. The key themes and messages include the necessity of spreading the gospel, the challenge of unbelief and the universal scope of God's salvation plan. Paul emphasizes that while the message is available to all, not everyone accepts it, yet God continues to reach out in grace and patience.

I. HOW CAN THEY HEAR UNLESS SOMEONE TELLS THEM?

ROMANS 10:14

14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

II. HOW WILL SOMEONE TELL THEM UNLESS THEY ARE SENT?

ROMANS 10:15

15 And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"

Who is God sending you to tell? Have you had an experience in the past when you knew you should tell someone about Jesus and salvation but you did not?

III. BE PREPARED: WHEN YOU GO AND TELL, NOT EVERYONE WILL WELCOME YOUR MESSAGE.

ROMANS 10:16-21

16 But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, “Lord, who has believed our message?” **17** So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. **18** But I ask, have the people of Israel actually heard the message? Yes, they have: “The message has gone throughout the earth, and the words to all the world.”

19 But I ask, did the people of Israel really understand? Yes, they did, for even in the time of Moses, God said, “I will rouse your jealousy through people who are not even a nation. I will provoke your anger through the foolish Gentiles.”

20 And later Isaiah spoke boldly for God, saying, “I was found by people who were not looking for me. I showed myself to those who were not asking for me.”

21 But regarding Israel, God said, “All day long I opened my arms to them, but they were disobedient and rebellious.”

Hiroo Onoda - Japanese soldier who never surrendered and continued fighting 29 years after WWII ended.

Norio Suzuki discovered Hiroshima Onoda on Lubang Island, Philippines February 20, 1974)

- 28 years, 6 months, 8 days

LIFE APPLICATION SERMON GUIDE

1. **The Role of Evangelism:** In Romans 10:14-16, Paul outlines a sequence for how people come to faith. How do you understand the relationship between being "sent," "preaching," "hearing" and "believing"? What does this imply about the responsibility of Christians today in sharing the gospel?

Life Application: Reflect on how you can actively participate in spreading the Gospel in our community. What are some practical ways you can be involved in evangelism, whether through direct conversation, supporting missions or using social media?

2. **Faith Comes by Hearing:** Romans 10:17 states, "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." How does this shape your understanding of the importance of scripture in developing and nurturing faith?

Life Application: Consider your personal engagement with scripture. How can you incorporate regular reading, meditation and sharing of God's word into your daily life to strengthen your faith and influence others?

3. **The Challenge of Unbelief:** Despite the widespread proclamation of the gospel, Paul acknowledges that not everyone accepts it (Romans 10:16). What are some reasons people today might reject the Gospel and how can Christians address these challenges with grace-fueled acceptance?

Life Application: Think about the people in your life who may be resistant to the Gospel. What steps can you take to engage them in meaningful conversations, showing empathy and targeting the Gospel to personal needs and individual experiences?

4. **The Gospel for All:** Paul emphasizes that the message of the Gospel has gone out to all the earth (Romans 10:18). How does this shape your view of God's mission and that the Gospel for all means church for all?

Life Application: How often do we make church about ourselves and the traditions that we grew up with and are comfortable practicing rather than the mission to reach the lost? Reflect on what contributions you can make to help people from all backgrounds and different traditions feel welcome in our church. How can you accept and celebrate different expressions of faith and worship as we gather in groups?

5. **Israel's Rejection and God's Patience:** In Romans 10:19-21, Paul speaks of Israel's rejection of the gospel and God's continued outreach. How do these verses illustrate God's patience and faithfulness? What lessons can we learn about how we should approach those who seem resistant to faith?

Life Application: Consider situations where you have faced rejection or resistance in sharing your faith. How can you emulate God's patience and perseverance in continuing to love and pray for those who have not yet responded in faith to the Gospel message?

6. The Beauty of Those Who Bring Good News: Paul quotes Isaiah, saying, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:15). What makes the act of sharing the Gospel beautiful and how can this perspective inspire you to share your faith more?

Life Application: Think about a time when someone shared the Gospel with you or when you shared it with someone else. What impact did it have? How can you cultivate a sense of joy and beauty in the act of sharing your faith with others?

7. Pray: Ask the Lord to daily give you opportunities to share the scripture you are reading and your faith story with others! Pray for those you know by name who have not trusted Jesus as their Savior and are not following Him as Lord.