



THE CITY GATES CHURCH

Love God. Love Others.

Romans 10:14-21 **The Gospel for Israel, and Us**

Summary: The simple gospel is spread and resisted under God's persistent care.

This morning as we continue our study of Romans, we'll see how the gospel works, how the Kingdom of God grows. We'll break that down into four parts as we look at the Simplicity of the Gospel, the Spread of the Gospel, why people Resist the Gospel, and finally appreciate the Patience of God.

There's a lot for us to consider, and hopefully there will be some major clarification, guidance, and life change for some of us as well. But keep in mind, all of this happens with Israel as the backdrop. Don't forget - they're the case study we're exploring as we draw out personal application for ourselves – you need to remember that because Israel is going to come back to the forefront next week, and we'll try to tackle some major questions about them.

For now though, jump back to the end of last week's passage – we'll pick things up there, do a quick survey of the rest of the chapter and then circle back for some in-depth observations. First though, we find Paul explaining how we respond to the gospel by faith.

Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Notice the wide-open door from God to come into a relationship with Him, to be born again. **Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.** This is the epitome of inclusivity and accessibility!

OK, but how are people going to know the door is open? Someone needs to tell them.

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14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,
Who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

If you've been in church, you've probably heard this passage used to discuss the needs and opportunities of missions and church planting. If people are going to hear, someone has to go tell them, and the rest of us need to help the messengers get there.

That's all true, and there's nothing wrong with using this to show why we should send and support missionaries. But let's not forget, the original context of this passage is *the need to reach Israel*, and that need still exists today. Because, the problem with Israel is the same problem as the rest of the world – even when they hear, they don't all believe.

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our report?" 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Again, back to our earlier point, the gospel is simple and simply received. But it's also frequently resisted:

18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed:

*"Their sound has gone out to all the earth,
And their words to the ends of the world."*

19 But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says:

*"I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation,
I will move you to anger by a foolish nation."*

We'll come back to this, but here Paul is dealing with the fact that the Israel had more access to more information about God than any other people group in history. Why didn't they eagerly accept the gospel then?

And the answer is, because, like everyone else, it's about individual submission—are you willing to let God rule your life, or do you insist on having final approval? You see, at the end of the day, most people don't want to have a god, they want to be god – to make all their own choices and never submit to anyone.

Meanwhile, as the people of Israel debated over whether or not to receive Jesus as their Messiah, their Savior, people from other nations and ethnicities heard about Him and gladly received Him.

20 But Isaiah is very bold and says:

*"I was found by those who did not seek Me;
I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me."*

OK, so what does that mean for Israel? Well, we'll get into that even further next week but for now, notice – God never gave up on them, and God has not given up on them:

21 But to Israel he says:

*"All day long I have stretched out My hands
To a disobedient and contrary people."*

I want to point out that this is good news for all those who are ethnically Jewish, but it's equally good news for all the rest of us who are not, because it shows something of the enduring patience, mercy, and kindness of God which we'll focus on later.

That's the overall flow of the message, so let's circle back now and review the various parts. The first thing we see is the simplicity of the Gospel.

1. The Simplicity of the Gospel.

The term 'gospel' simply means the good news. It's an old way of saying it – it's more like the way Shakespeare would say something than the way we would say it today, but the term stuck through the years. So, when you hear 'gospel,' just think good news. And that good news is the message of what God has done through Jesus.

As simply as I can put it, here is the gospel: God made you and He made everything else and everyone else in the world. He wants us to live a certain way, to allow Him to guide and direct our lives, He wants us to live in a relationship with Him...but we don't. We choose to do things our way, we want to make all our own decisions and do our own thing.

If we keep making that choice, it just carries on when we die. We spend eternity separated from the God we never wanted to surrender to while we were alive.

Or, we can realize that God is reaching out to us, and we can respond to Him, we can submit and surrender to Him, we can say, I want to be in a personal relationship with you God. I don't want to do life my way, I want You to be the king of my life.

That's possible because God sent His Son, Jesus, to reach out to us – to tell us about His Father and His plans, and ultimately, to reconcile us to God. You see, when we resist God it's as if we're committing spiritual crimes. And those crimes have fines, punishments, and penalties.

Sometimes you don't even know you've done something wrong, or you didn't know anyone else knew you did something wrong. But how many of you have gotten a letter in the mail from the government with a picture of what you did wrong – you were speeding, or you didn't stop in time for a red light, and a traffic camera caught you. Now you owe a fine.

Well, that happens every day spiritually. But that's why Jesus went to the cross – He had never done anything wrong, but He offered to pay for all the wrong we have done. He says, 'Give Me that letter, I'll take care of it.' Which is good news, right? You don't have to pay the fine, even though you did something wrong.

And then, once all of our fines, penalties, and punishments had been paid, God raised Him from the dead and He returned to Heaven where He waits for us to join Him for eternity.

That's the gospel. *You did something wrong, but you don't have to pay for it, Jesus did, so you can have a relationship with God.*

But this only works if that's what you really want – a restored relationship with God. Jesus won't pay your fines and let you go do whatever you want. He's not here to write checks for you all day.

Notice - **Romans 10:9** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Everything hinges on you confessing, I am not the Lord, I am not the master, I am not the king, I am not the boss of my own life, Jesus is. If you make this confession, if you switch your allegiance to team Jesus, **you will be saved.**

So, let me ask the question – is this your confession? Is Jesus your Lord? Who gets to make the decisions in your life? You, or God? Or someone else?

While you think about that, let me point out something else. All of this is originally about Israel. And if you remember, we saw in Chapter 9 that Israel has all kinds

of things going for them spiritually – they were specially adopted and chosen by God for His plan to bring salvation to the world. They saw and experienced the glory of God on earth. They received divine covenants and promises. God told them how to live and worship. Their family tree includes people like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and many others, including Jesus. They were also very zealous about their religion. They took religion seriously.

But what they really needed was to simply say **Jesus is Lord** and to believe that **God raised Him from the dead**. You can be very religious, very spiritual, and be very wrong. The question is not how often do you pray, or how much Scripture have you read, or how often do you attend worship, or what do you give to the church or to charity, the question is – *is Jesus Lord?* Who is running your life? Are you on the throne, or is He? No other question matters more than this.

So, I'll press you again – you have now heard the simple message of the gospel. Have you received it? Do you believe it? Does it affect your life? Do you tell yourself no to things and yes to things not because you want it, but because God says it? *Is Jesus Lord?*

2. The Spread of the Gospel.

Now that we know what the gospel is, let's see how the message spreads.

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent?

Here we notice the good news of what God has done for us in Jesus needs to be spread, it needs to be communicated, it needs to penetrate the market. How is that going to happen? By word of mouth.

The good news is not meant to be a secret. God wants it to go viral. He wants everyone to hear it – beginning with Israel, but then spreading to include everyone alive on the planet. I really mean it when I say God is all about inclusivity. Notice, **Whoever calls on the name of Lord shall be saved.**

But in order to do that, they need to know who the Lord is, which means someone has to tell them, just like someone told you.

Which is why you need to know the word preacher here is not the term for a pastor. If you read **how shall they hear without a preacher**, and you think of some guy in a suit with a Bible in his hand all excited and yelling, you've got the

wrong idea. The word for preacher here is just the word for a herald – someone who makes announcements.

Back in the days before social media and even before legacy media – TV, radio, newspapers – word got around by people traveling to make announcements. So, think less Billy Graham and more Paul Revere. Billy Graham was an evangelist; he spent his life in what some might call full time ministry. Paul Revere was a silversmith, a craftsman and a patriot with an important message to share – the British are coming!



You need to know that because more Christians are going to be like Paul Revere than Billy Graham. You're not on staff at the church, you're not paid for ministry, but you're still a herald, you've got a message, and it needs to be shared. People will be saved for all eternity because you shared the gospel with them.

So, all of you preachers take notice: there are two types of evangelism. I like the way John Stott put this in his commentary – he says there is praying evangelism and preaching evangelism. Look at [Romans 10:1](#) Paul says his [heart's desire and prayer for Israel is that they may be saved](#). All effective evangelism begins with prayer.

So, think about it – who do you want to see saved? Your children or grandchildren? Your neighbor? Co-worker, teacher, friend. Are you praying for them? This is where the battle is won. You don't argue people into the Kingdom of God, you pray them in.

If you sign up for Equip – our evangelism training and ministry – they have two tracks. One is simply to learn how to pray for people, to pray that they might be saved. And then to take time to actually pray.

The other track is to go out and spread the message – what Stott calls preaching evangelism. To be the herald. To help people hear the things they need to hear so *that they can be saved*. It's not enough for us to just live our lives as a good witness and testimony to people – though that is important. At some point we must actually talk to them about the good news so *that they can be believe and be saved*. Both praying and preaching evangelism are necessary and all of us can do both of them.

So, let me ask – who does God want to use you to reach? Do you have a burden for anyone? Are you compelled by obedience to God and love for others to see someone become a Christian? Who is that person, who are those

people that God wants to use you to help discover eternal life? It's an enormous privilege, and God is giving it to you.

Most of you are going to do it like Paul Revere – you'll have an ordinary day job and pray for and speak to the people in your ordinary life. Most people will actually be led to faith that way too, by someone they already know and trust in their lives.

But some in here might be called in another way. Is it possible that God is calling you to vocational ministry? Whether in the church, at home, or somewhere overseas. I want to bring up the possibility – because that's the point of the passage – people need to go tell others. We need Paul Revere, but we also need Billy Graham.

Christian, are you willing to consider the question – is God calling me to serve in fulltime ministry, and if He is, what does that mean? Where do you need to be, and who is going to send you there? I hope that question really messes some of you up. Because it's real. God calls people into ministry. Is He calling you?

Let me just walk you through some Scripture. You know how Matthew's gospel ends, right? With a charge from Jesus known as the Great Commission:

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Jesus says, Go, tell people what you know about Me, and by the way, I'm going to be with you as you do it.

That's Matthew, let's move on to Mark, what do we read at the end of Mark's gospel?

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

So, um, just to be clear Jesus, are we supposed to tell these people? Yep. And those people? Uh-huh. And what about them? Them too. Tell everyone – whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

What does Luke say? At the end of his gospel, we find Jesus explaining events to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus:

Luke 24:46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

I won't take the time to list the nearly 200 sovereign nations of the world today, because the word for nations is actually *ethnos* from which we get our word ethnicity. There are somewhere between 7-10,000 ethnic groups in the world today.

All of them need to hear the gospel including hundreds of ethnicities here in the United States. Which is God calling you to tell? And what form of ministry will that take?

Well, we've seen Matthew, Mark, and Luke, what about John? What do we see there? At the end of John's gospel, we find Jesus asking Peter three times – do you love Me? If so, feed my sheep. Teach them, tell them about Me.

John 21:17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" ...
And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."
Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

We could keep going. Acts picks up where the gospels leave off. After the resurrection, before Jesus returns to heaven, he tells the disciples:

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

You can resist it. You don't have to like it. But you can't miss it – Jesus really does want people who know and love Him to spread the news about Him to everyone else on the planet. And, remember the original context, this includes the people of Israel and all her neighbors – Jew, Arab, Persian, Bedouin, Kurd, Druze, Circassians, and Samaritans – yes, they still really exist.

This morning, I want to poke you and provoke you with the question: *What does that mean for you?*

God wants everyone to know the good news. God wants people to tell them. God wants people to send the people who are going. Where do you fit in the chain? I hope you'll sit with that question until you're confident in your answer.

Whatever the answer is, you'll also need to understand our final two points, which brings me to number three – Resistance to the Gospel.

3. Resistance to the Gospel.

In verses 16 through 19 Paul deals with the fact that often people hear the good news, but they reject it or aren't interested. That was, and is, the problem with Israel – a problem we'll dig into more next week when we ask the question, OK so if God made all of these promises to Israel and they rejected Jesus, what now? Do those promises still stand? I believe a clear reading of the Scripture shows you the answer is yes, God still has a plan for Israel, but you'll have to come back next week to hear more of why.

For now, we just want to acknowledge the fact that people know something about God before they know the gospel. The problem is, most people don't want to know any more about God than they already do.

We saw this back in Romans 1. Do you remember?

Romans 1:20 ... since the creation of the world [God's] invisible attributes are clearly seen [and] understood ... [so that people] are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Jesus said something similar in John 3 when He told Nicodemus

John 3:19 this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Creation tells us there is a God. The gospel explains who He is and what He has done. But people still reject and resist the truth. It's not a matter of having more information, it's a matter of not wanting to be ruled, we all want to be our own king or to have a god that we can negotiate with and the one, true, living God says no way.

Remember, Israel had everything going for them. They had all the advantages you could ask for. If anyone was primed and positioned to receive the gospel, it was Israel. But even they rejected and resisted. It wasn't a matter of having more head knowledge, it was, and is, a matter of being willing to let God be God and do what He wants to do instead of trying to manage, control, and manipulate everything for your own advantage.

Which is why I marvel all the more at point number four this morning – the Persistence of God.

4. The Persistence of God.

Look at vs 21: *"All day long I have stretched out My hands
To a disobedient and contrary people."*

Who does God reach out to? Not to cooperative and compliant people. Not to obedient and agreeable people. **Disobedient and contrary people** – that's who God reaches out to. All. Day. Long.

Can you thank Him and praise Him for it? What did that patience mean for you? What does it still mean today? My friends do not mistake God's patience for His permission, but praise Him for His mercy. Thank Him for His grace.

And, notice this – vs 19 - God is trying to provoke Israel by blessing you. If you will surrender your life to His leadership, He wants to bless you so that others see your peace, your joy, the love you show and are shown, the way you live. God wants Israel, and others, to see that and want it for themselves. So, one of the best ways you can evangelize the world is to flourish in your relationship with God. Be provocative in all the right ways.

Well, that's all the time we have this morning – but two big questions remain. **Number one**, *is Jesus Lord?* Have you made that confession? If not, why not? Why not do it now and change your life today?

But then, question **number two**, *who is God calling you to tell?* What does that mean for your life? God calls all of us to ministry, the question is just when and where? It might look like Billy Graham, or it might look like Paul Revere. So, let me ask, is God stirring something in you, is calling any of you, to consider giving your entire life over to that calling today? Is God calling any of you into fulltime ministry or missions? Is He calling you to reach out to some group of people? He does that you know – are you part of the next generation of ministers, even if you're already retired?

Lots to think about today, and even more to consider next week when we dig into what all of this means for Israel.

Let's pray.



THE CITY GATES CHURCH

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Sermon Outline

Romans 10:14-21 The Gospel for Israel, and Us

20 July 2025

- **Summary:** The simple gospel is spread and resisted under God's persistent care.

I. The Simplicity of the Gospel

- Definition: The gospel is the good news of salvation through Jesus
- Key Point: Salvation hinges on confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in His resurrection

II. The Spread of the Gospel

- Mechanism: Word-of-mouth sharing through praying and preaching evangelism
- Additional Scriptures:
 - Matthew 28:18-20 (The Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations")
 - Mark 16:15 ("Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature")
 - Luke 24:46-47 ("Repentance and remission of sins should be preached... to all nations")
 - John 21:17 ("Feed My sheep")
 - Acts 1:8 ("You shall be witnesses to Me... to the end of the earth")
- Key Point: Every believer is called to share the gospel, whether in everyday life or vocational ministry

III. Resistance to the Gospel

- Reality: Many hear but reject the gospel, including Israel
- John 3:19 ("Men loved darkness rather than light")
- Key Point: Resistance stems from a desire for self-rule over submission to God

IV. The Persistence of God

- God's Response: Relentless outreach to a disobedient world
- Key Point: God's patience and mercy extend to all, using believers' lives to draw others to faith

Conclusion: Call to Action

- Reflect on Jesus as Lord and your role in sharing the gospel
- Consider God's call to ministry, whether in daily life or full-time service

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Group Application & Discussion Guide

I. The Simplicity of the Gospel

1. Have you personally confessed Jesus as Lord? Share how this decision has shaped your life or what might be holding you back from fully surrendering to Him. How can you take a step forward today?

II. The Spread of the Gospel

2. The sermon highlighted both praying and preaching evangelism. How can you incorporate prayer for others' salvation into your daily routine? Share one person you'll commit to praying for this week.
 - Cross-reference: 1 Timothy 2:1-4 – God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."
3. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) calls us to make disciples of all nations. How does this inspire you to think beyond your immediate circle? Are there opportunities (local or global) where God might be stirring your heart to serve or support missions?

III. Resistance to the Gospel

4. The sermon noted that many resist the gospel because they want to remain in control (Romans 10:16-19; John 3:19). How have you seen this resistance in your own life or others'? How can understanding this motivate you to approach others with patience and love?
 - Cross-reference: 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 – "The god of this age has blinded the minds of those who do not believe."

IV. The Persistence of God

5. God's persistent outreach to a "disobedient and contrary people" (Romans 10:21) reveals His incredible patience and mercy. How does this truth encourage you in moments when you feel far from God or when others seem unresponsive to the gospel?
 - Cross-reference: 2 Peter 3:9 – "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise... but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish."
6. The sermon suggested that God uses your blessed life to provoke others to faith (Romans 10:19). What are some ways you can live intentionally to reflect God's peace, joy, and love, making the gospel attractive to others?
 - Cross-reference: Titus 2:10 – "Adorning the doctrine of God our Savior in all things."

Application for Daily Life

7. The sermon challenged us to consider if Jesus is truly Lord of our lives. Identify one area where you can surrender more fully to His leadership this week (e.g., decisions, relationships, priorities).
8. Who is one person God is calling you to pray for or share the gospel with? Commit to a specific action (e.g., a conversation, an invitation to church) and pray for boldness and wisdom.
9. Reflect on the possibility of God calling you to deeper involvement in ministry, whether through serving locally or exploring vocational calling. What next steps can you take to discern His direction for your life? - Cross-reference: Ephesians 2:10