

Romans 10:1-21 “Living on Mission”

Pastor Bruce Zachary

Thesis: Man has a responsibility in God’s redemptive plan. The reason why God doesn’t generally bring people to heaven once they get saved is because He has a mission for us to fulfill on earth. In essence, your mission can be distilled as follows: Live the Great Commandment(s) to love God supremely and love neighbors as you love yourself; and live the Great Commission to make disciples of Jesus. This is the remedy for any culture that has rejected Jesus, and this is where you’re going to experience the greatest satisfaction and purpose in life. You have the unique opportunity to impact eternity by living on mission.

Let’s discover how you can live on mission

Subject: The remedy for [Jews] rejection of Jesus

Object: Engage your culture for Christ (live on mission)

Context: In chapters 9-11, we see God’s plan to redeem Israel. The 9th chapter focused on God’s Sovereign choice, and chapter 10 focuses on man’s responsibility.

1. Establish a burden to see people saved [1]

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. Paul declares his earnest desire to see his Jewish brethren saved [Cf. 9:1-3]. This is also Jesus' heart [Luke 19:10,41]. Paul was moved to action: he prayed and shared the gospel.

Pray for the salvation of people God has put on your heart.

Jesus declared, “The harvest is truly plentiful, but the laborers are few, therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” [Matt. 9:37-38].

Then, Jesus sent His disciples to engage their communities with the gospel [Matt. 10:1-16]. Jesus' followers discover that they are the ones He is sending into the harvest.

Who has God put on your heart to see saved? How are you praying for them?

2. Explain why people need a Savior [2-5]

Good works promote self-righteousness, but not God's righteousness [2-3]

² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

Paul admired the Jews' zeal for God, but recognized that it was misdirected due to a lack of understanding [2]. This had been Paul's own experience prior to Jesus [See, Ac. 7-9].

The Jews of Paul's day, *were ignorant of God's righteousness and sought to establish their own righteousness without submitting to the righteousness of God* [3].

Similarly, the moralists today who assume they are good enough to deserve God and heaven because they “do good” try to create their own righteousness without submitting to the righteousness of God.

No one can attain God’s righteousness by good works apart from Christ [5]

⁵For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, “The man who does those things shall live by them.”

God’s commandments, through Moses, reveal God’s standard of moral perfection. To be right with God per the law, you must perform it all [Rom. 3:23,6:23]. At verse 5, Paul quotes Leviticus 18:5, “You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I *am* the LORD.”

3. Explain how to be right with God (the gospel) [4, 6-13]

Jesus fulfills the law so that His followers can be right with God [4-8]

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes [4]. God’s righteousness is given to Jesus’ followers through faith in what Christ did at the cross [Rom. 1:17, 5:1]. This is what separates biblical Christianity from every other religion. Our standing before God is based on what Jesus did, not what you must do. That is why it is good news!

⁶But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) ⁷or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that

is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

Those who have committed to follow Jesus don’t need to climb to heaven [6], nor descend to the bottom of the earth [7], because God is near [8] [Deut. 30:12-14] to those who believe.

Jesus’ followers are right with God through faith (submitting to Christ) [9-13]

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.”

To *confess* [9] means to acknowledge *the Lord Jesus*, or to submit to God’s authority. The Greek term *kurios* here translated *Lord* was used of deity as a pledge of obedience and worship. This is more than simply a term of respect. When the Old Testament was translated into Greek [Septuagint] *kurios* was used to translate YHWH the covenant name of God. Calling Jesus *Lord* is significant. You must *believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead* [9]. The resurrection proves that God accepted

Jesus' perfect sacrifice, and is thus a foundation of the faithful [1Cor. 15]. Jesus is not simply a martyr.

Salvation, you will be saved [9,10,13], refers to Christ redeeming or delivering humanity from separation from God. The means to salvation is belief or faith which refers to trusting and yielding to Jesus [10]. In verses 11-13, Paul quotes Is. 28:16, and Joel 2:32 to show that salvation is available to all who come to Christ; and that God makes no distinction between Jew and Gentile.

4. Engage and entice [14-21]

People need to be engaged for Christ [14-17]

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!" 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.

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? [14]. The term *preacher* refers to a herald or messenger rather than a Sunday morning Bible teacher. All of Jesus' followers are to proclaim Christ and His gospel. Jesus' followers are called to be ambassadors in God's work of

reconciling humanity, we are *sent* for this purpose [15, 2Cor. 5:18-20]. People need to hear (and generally understand) the gospel to respond, *faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God* [17].

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things! [15] doesn't refer to the aesthetics of your toes and insole, rather a reference that many will welcome those who share the gospel. Nevertheless, not all who hear the gospel will yield to God [16], *But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our report? Here Paul quotes Is. 53:10 to show that God foresees that not all will receive the message, and our expectations should reflect this reality.*

People need to be enticed for Christ [18-21]

Stir people to want what you have in Christ. Make them jealous for Jesus.

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." 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." 21 But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and contrary people.

Paul quotes Ps. 19:4, *“Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world* to affirm that the Jews had heard the gospel [19]. Similarly, most in our country have some awareness of Jesus and His gospel. God’s plan for the Jews specifically, and unbelievers generally, is to stir them to jealousy by His love for the Church, and through His Church [19]. The Church, is not a reference to a building, but a reference to Jesus’ followers, and is primarily Gentiles (non-Jews).

Stir people to jealousy by a life that shines bright for Jesus, and causes people to thirst for Him [Matt. 5:13-14].

God is seeking those who have not sought Him [20-21]. Paul quotes Isaiah 65:1-2, to show God’s ministry to Gentiles was predicted, and that God continues to reach out to Jews specifically, and to unbelievers generally [Lu. 15, 19:10].

Study Guide Qs

Q1. Who has God put on your heart to see saved? Spend time praying for them as a group.

Q2. What are some of the feelings that Christians might have towards living on mission (engaging their culture for Christ)?

Q3. Describe a time when you engaged your culture for Christ. What happened and how did you feel?

Q4. How would you like to apply this lesson in the coming year?

Digging Deeper

1. Here is an insightful article on current trends in evangelism: <https://exponential.org/5-current-trends-evangelism-engaging-culture-peyton-jones/>
2. Here is an interesting article regarding shifts in engaging in a post-Christian context: <https://careynieuwhof.com/5-important-ways-evangelism-is-shifting-in-a-post-christian-world/>