

HOW WILL THEY HEAR?

Rom. 10:14-21

ISRAEL'S PRESENT CONDITION ROM. 10

People who try to earn their way & make it on their own cut themselves off from God's supply & end up bankrupt!

People who trust Christ & acknowledge Him receive all we need to make it with God!

9-13 *"If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," & believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

¹⁰For it's with your heart that you believe & are justified, & it's with your mouth that you confess & are saved. ¹¹As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame"... ¹³for "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

God calls for "heart & mouth" response to Jesus:

We trust Him, from the *heart*

**We acknowledge Him & call on His name
with *our mouth***

"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"

God's giving eternal life to people like us!

People who hear His voice & trust Him receive life.

But **People will never call on His name, unless someone proclaims good news to them**

14-15 <= Is. 52:7 *"How can they call on the one they haven't believed in? & how can they believe in the one of whom they haven't heard? & how can they hear without someone preaching*

to them? ¹⁵& how can they preach unless they're sent? As it's written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

For Israel, or *anyone*, to call on Him,
they must *hear* the good news.

Questions=>process God follows so they hear:

They won't call on name of Jesus if they don't trust Him

They won't trust Him, if they've never heard of Him.

For them to hear about Him someone must tell them

For someone to tell them, someone must send them.

PROCESS LEADING TO SALVATION

Logical order of process reverses order of the text:

CALL on His name

^ **TRUST in Christ**

^ **HEAR the good news**

^ **PROCLAIM the message**

^ **SEND the messenger**

God gives US opportunity to be part of process!

Implication for us: proclaim good news to others,
so they hear, trust Christ & call on His name.

We aren't responsible for rejection of truth by the lost; we're responsible to send messengers & proclaim message

Swindoll: Most popular method to communicate: "**Silent witness**" "All God expects is good, silent life. Others will ask about Jesus if interested." I can count on 1 hand (with fingers left over) people who've come up & asked about Jesus. We can't discount

value of godly life, that alone never brought *anyone* into God's family. "*Faith comes from hearing...*"

Paul Rader urged banker to receive Christ many times. One day Rader sensed God saying: Go talk to him. He hurried to the bank; found friend in doorway. "Rader! Glad to see you! I wrote telegram begging you to come, but didn't send it." "That's O.K., message came by way of Heaven." Banker was impressed! He trusted Christ; in new-found joy exclaimed, "Did you ever see sky so blue or grass so green!" Rader responded we sing, 'Heaven above is softer blue, earth around is sweeter green; something lives in every hue Christless eyes have never seen.'" Banker gasped & fell into evangelist's arms—DEAD! ***We never know when God may be giving someone last chance to hear & believe good news about Jesus.***

Who was the person with beautiful feet in your life?

For whom will WE be messenger with beautiful feet?

We proclaim good news so others can hear, trust, & call.

[BUT, when it comes to Israel, that isn't the problem! =>]

God continues to reach out to people who refuse to believe what they've heard! 16-19

Hearing *isn't* believing! 16 => Is 53:1 "Not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?"

Isr. heard good news; refused to believe

Isa.: in his day, *no one's listening! No one* believes him.

That hasn't changed. People *still* reject God's message

Believing is based on hearing. 17 *“Faith comes from hearing the message, & the message is heard through the word of Christ.”*

Some might object that they’ve never had a chance to hear the truth—*No one told THEM the good news!*

Jewish people can’t raise *that* objection; they’ve heard often!

Hearing hasn’t produced appropriate response.

They aren’t listening! They refuse to believe.

God continues to reach out to rebellious people

They’ve heard the word. 18 *“Did they not hear? Of course they did: “Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.” <= Ps. 19:4*

Heavens proclaim God’s worthy of submission & worship!

But they haven’t responded appropriately—they’d rather do it themselves! No one can use that excuse!

Rom. 1 says all have received sufficient testimony!

Maybe they didn’t understand?!! No!—that’s not it!

They’ve been warned 19-21 19a

“Did Israel not understand?”

Didn’t they know what they were doing? Yes!”

Moses warned them 19b *“1st Moses says, ‘I’ll make you envious by those who aren’t a nation; I’ll make you angry by a nation that has no understanding.<=Dt. 32:21 “They’ve made me jealous with what is **no god**; they’ve provoked me to anger with their idols. So I’ll make them jealous with those who are **no people**; I’ll provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.”*

Response to: *“maybe they don’t understand*

If pagans, who aren’t formally constituted people, have no spiritual training, aren’t seeking God—if *THEY* can understand the good news, surely Israel could!

That’s *why* they’re without excuse! They *did* understand!

God’s working among *pagans* to stir *them*; even so—*they* reject Him!

Isaiah also warned them 20-21

Pagans hear good news & believe. 20 *“Isaiah boldly says, “I was found by those who didn’t seek me; I revealed myself to those who didn’t ask for me.”*

God presents Himself to people that didn’t seek Him;
they accept by *faith* what Israel refuses to receive.

God continues to reach out to unbelieving people

21 *“Concerning Israel he says, “All day long I’ve held out my hands to a disobedient & obstinate people.” <= Is. 65:2*

*God keeps after them—He’s **persistent**—won’t give up!*

God keeps appealing to people who aren’t interested!

They’re responsible for their own unbelief.

Yet, there’s good news: *People who aren’t looking for God (= US) have found Him!*

In spite of rejection, God encourages Isr. to receive mercy

—He keeps urging US to trust His Son!

Israel’s struggle to prove her own righteousness shows contrast between religion and God’s way.

What should we learn from this passage?

TWO LESSONS FOR US:

- 1. Lost people will never hear about Jesus unless we tell them about Him.**
- 2. If God's persistent in pursuing lost people, WE should persistently pursue lost people.**

All day long God reaches out to rebellious people.

If God cares that much, do we?

How much do we invest in reaching out to lost people?

We should go out of our way—leave our comfort zone—to proclaim good news to people around us.

Pray God will use **US** to share good news, that He'll open hearts to hear truth & trust Christ.

That's not **MY** job—that's **all of our job**.

God holds **us** accountable to share good news

PRAY FOR TWO!!!

Rogelio's story

What goes on inside this building ought to equip **us** to reach out; to share good news with others.

How beautiful are OUR feet?