

Romans 10.12-21

God Needs You

1790 / 25 yr. old Shoe Maker & part-time BAPTIST Preacher in England met with

Group of Baptist Ministers to share his desire to do Missionary work in India  
Instead of REJOICING they RIDICULED this foolish young man

ELDERLY PASTOR > “Young man when God chooses to save the people of India, he will do so without your help!!”

IF ALL the BIBLE WE HAD WAS ROMANS 9 > could understand their opinion  
But William Carey also read Romans 10 and obeyed God’s Call to India

Chs. 9 – 11 > God’s Plan for Israel > BIGGER THEME God’s Plan for History

EACH CHAPTER Begins with Paul’s DEEP EXPRESSION OF CONCERN

10.1 “my heart's desire & prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved

QUESTION – Why have the majority in Israel rejected Jesus their Messiah?

Ch. 9 > Looks to Past – ETERNITY Past > God’s Electing Decree

Ch. 10 > Present – Israel has CHOSEN to REJECT God’s Covenant Savior

Ch. 11 > Future > God’s Ultimate Plan for Israel

1. Israel’s Rejection / 2. God’s Response / 3. Our Responsibility

### 1. Israel’s Rejection

Understanding Unbelief – Why? v. 16 “not all Israelites accepted the good news”

a. Suggested Reasons: Two Possible Reasons

# 1 Possibility – v. 18 “Did they not hear?” OF COURSE THEY DID

Psalm 19 > Glory of God’s Revelation "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."

GENERAL through Creation - vs. 1,2 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech;

SPECIAL through Scripture - v. 7 “The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.”

STOTT “If God wants the general revelation of his glory to be universal, how much more must he want the special revelation of his grace to be universal too!”

Wherever there are Jews, there the Promise of Messiah’s Gospel has Been Known

Colossians 1.6,23 “All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing... This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.”

REJOICE > GOSPEL Glass is over Half Full > Billions have Heard Gospel  
THEY CANNOT BLAME THEIR NOT BELIEVING ON NOT HEARING

# 2 Possibility – v. 19 “Did Israel not understand?”

PAUL GOES FOR THE JUGLAR VEIN > “First, MOSES, says” / AUTHORITY

Jesus to Jewish Leaders – John 5.45 "But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. "

This kind of Preaching can get a PERSON KILLED – ask Jesus, ask Paul

v. 19 "I will make you envious by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding."

GENTILES = “Not a Nation” > Not a SPECIAL PEOPLE in the Eyes of God  
“No Understanding” > Ignorant of True God, His Word, Promises  
“Did not Seek Me” > Happy go lucky pagans / NO THOUGHT OF GOD

BUT NOW EVEN THESE GODLESS GENTILES UNDERSTAND & BELIEVE  
BELIEVED WHAT JEW SHOULD HAVE BELIEVED > going to Heaven!

JEWS CLEARLY DID UNDERSTAND > were jealous when Gentiles accepted it  
v. 20 “And Isaiah boldly says, "I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me."

b. Sad Reason v. 21 Israel GOD says, "... a *disobedient and obstinate people.*"

JEW CARED LITTLE FOR GENTILE > who cares what they do?  
“Let them go to hell, why should I care?”

NOW GENTILES claimed to be TRUE JEWS > Faithful Covenant members!

LUKE Records Paul's PREACHING in Jewish Synagogue in Pisidian Antioch  
 As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God. On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying. Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles...When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed." Acts 13.40-48

BOICE "Why do people hate Christianity today? It is because of grace. Grace means that God saves the undeserving. Grace saves the "nobodies." Grace saves the ignorant. Grace saves those who are not even seeking God...How the natural man hates that! If God would only take note of who we are...our superior and advanced intelligence, or at least credit us for trying. Instead, he insists that we come with no claims on his favor at all. What is our problem? Is it that we have not heard the gospel? No, we have heard it...Is it that we have not understood it? No we have understood it all too well. That is why we are angry with those who have received it, and with God...Our problem is that...we have rejected grace. It is because we will not bow our stiff, disobedient, and obstinate necks to the gospel.

c. Saved Remnant v. 16 "Not all the Israelites accepted" > SOME DID > Paul

NOT ALL IS NOT NO ONE > "small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7.14

9.27 "only the remnant (of Israelites) will be saved"

"The word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith." Acts 6.7

## 2. God's Response to their Rejection

v. 21 "But concerning Israel he says, *"All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people."*

## a. Shows Continuous Compassion - GOD HOLDS OUT HIS HANDS

1. Continuous > All Day Long / God's Day = 1000 years

Man cannot hold his arms for an hour > God holds His out for Eternity

God has held out His arms since the Fall of Eden

God has held out His arms to you from the day you were born

2. Compassion > God's Gracious Welcome > Open Arms, Open Heart

HANDS OF JESUS IN GOSPEL > blessing children, touching lepers, blind  
Reaching out to grab a sinking, faithless Peter on the sea

v. 12 "for there is NO DIFFERENCE between Jew and Gentile"

3.22 "There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"  
NO DIFFERENCE IN OUR NEED FOR SALVATION

No Difference within the Family of Salvation "There is neither Jew nor Greek,  
slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3.28

COMMON SECULAR NOTION > different countries / peoples > Different gods  
v. 12 "The same Lord is Lord of all"

"For there is 1 God & 1 mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"  
1 Timothy 2.5

Peter said in household of Cornelius: "I now realize how true it is that God does  
not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what  
is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good  
news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. Acts 10.34

Israel's Fall No Reason for Gentile Boasting > 11.20 "Do not be arrogant but afraid

Presbyterian Pastor Robert Murray McCheyne > passing out Gospel Tracts

Gave one to a Well Dressed Lady: "Sir, you must not know who I am!"

McC: "Madame, there is a judgment day coming, and on that day it will not make  
any difference who you are"

## b. Sends Christ to Cross HANDS STRETCHED OUT / NAILED TO A CROSS

Cannot Read vs. 21 without thinking of the Christ upon the Cross

GIFFORD "It is a picture of the everlasting arms spread open in unwearied love"

v. 13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

v. 16 For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" from Isaiah 53

PAUL THINKS OF GOD'S SUFFERING SERVANT > Son who was Slain  
 "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed." Is 53.3-5

v. 17 "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."

v. 17 SUMMARIZES "So, then, faith by hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" 2 x's HEARING > Hearing What? 1. The Gospel 2. Christ Himself

GOSPEL > message Paul has carefully argued through book of Romans  
 CHRIST > Jesus is preaching the message > About X AND From X

Christ is both the CONTENT and AUTHOR of God's Message

REFORMATION emphasis > Word of God and the Spirit of God

If you want to be filled with Spirit > Read Word

If you want to understand the Word > Must be filled with the Spirit

LIKE THE TWO BLADES OF A PAIR OF SCISSORS

WHEN THE BIBLE IS PREACHED, CHRIST SPEAKS

Baptist > W.A. Criswell > Faithful preacher of Bible for more than 50 years

"No word of God spoken ever falls to the ground. Somehow, in some way, in all areas of life that we don't understand and don't know, God blesses it in his good purpose, in his electing choice, and in his heavenly time"

Promise of v. 17 good for preachers in Texas, but what about India?  
 People in India > Hmar / 125,000 / Descend. from Mongols in Central Asia  
 HEADHUNTERS > Hung heads of their enemies on Bamboo Huts  
 When British Colonialists tried to enter territory > Hmar took 500 Heads

Gospel of John printed in Language of Neighboring Tribe > Hmar Chief received  
 Sent out word > Looking for someone to Translate Bible for Hmar people

News Traveled to Wales > Chemist named Watkin Roberts > came to help  
 Neared their Region STOPPED by British Officer > “When I go there, I take 100  
 soldiers for protection, I cannot spare a single soldier for you”  
 SO WITHOUT A SINGLE SOLDIER > Roberts went to meet the Hmar Chief  
 After a week of Bible teaching > Chief and 4 Hmar men Repented & Believed

Before Long 1 of these men went to Preach in other Hmar villages  
 Teaching Bible, Leading people to Christ, Founding Churches EVERY Village  
 Many Hmars Converted > Tired of Fighting, Drinking, and Fear

BRITISH sent Watkin Roberts home > Branded as a TROUBLE-MAKER  
 Hmar man > Rochunga Pudaite > Sent to school to Translate Bible for Tribe  
 95% of Hmar are Christians > except Roberts, only M they had was BIBLE  
 85% Hmar Read & Write > 88 Xtian Elemen Schools, 7 Intermed, 4 High schools  
 Hospital Staffed by Hmar Doctors and Nurses  
 Hmar taking Gospel to Neighboring Tribes > 100’s of New Churches

Rochunga Pudaite “The Bible is the Book that reveals the mind of God, the heart  
 of man, the way of salvation, and the blessedness of believers...It is the Book that  
 set my people free.”

### 3. Our Response

BIBLE: 4 P's in a Pod: Predestination, Personal Responsibility, Prayer, Preaching

WE DO NOT HAVE A BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S ELECTION  
if we view this Doctrine as ESCAPE from Responsibility to Pray and Preach

Paul Prays that Israel will be SAVED > AND SO SHOULD WE TODAY  
Not just GENERAL prayer of Blessing / SPECIFIC "that they might be saved"

GOD'S ELECTION IS GREATEST INCENTIVE TO EVANGELIZE  
Left to himself > MAN WILL NOT COME

3.11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away

Bible holds PREDESTINATION and PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY Together

First is the Solution to the Second

Human Responsibility > leads to Misuse of that Responsibility > Sinful Rebellion

GOD'S SOLUTION > Salvation by God's Free Grace

WITHOUT PREDESTINATION > No one could be saved > God's Secret Weapon

GOD IS SOVEREIGN > Ordains the *Means* to Accomplish His Determined *Ends*  
"One night the Lord spoke to Paul (in Corinth) in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep  
on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you...I have many people in this city."  
So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God. Acts 18.9-11

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me...  
I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too  
will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd." Jn 10.14-16

George Muller > great German missionary to England / Man of Prayer

When he became Believer in Youth > began praying for 2 Friends

PRAYER JOURNALS reveals he Faithfully Prayed for them for 60 Years

At Muller's LAST Evangelistic Mtg. – shortly before death – One friend SAVED

One year AFTER Muller Died – the Second friend became a BELIEVER

Muller asked "Why have you prayed for those 2 *unresponsive* friends for so long?"

"Do you think God would have kept me praying all these years if he did not intend  
to save them?" > A Point Paul would have fully Understood

God Needs You – Strange words to use in context of Book of Romans

LEARNED Salvation > All of Grace / Redemption's Work done by God Alone

JAMES BOICE “One of the delightful things about studying the Bible is that just when we think we have mastered one of its great doctrines, another complementary doctrine comes along to challenge our still-limited understanding of Bible truth and stretch our vision.”

SURPRISINGLY – we realize NOW – God NEEDS US!  
THIS IS THE PLAN HE SOVEREIGNLY DESIGNED – was not FORCED TO  
Could have delegated Work of Evangelization to Angels / they do not experience it

GOD chose to Recruit Us as His Ambassadors / HERALDS of Gospel Message  
Those who have an Experiential Appreciation of Salvation > chosen to Declare It

The Lord said (to Isaiah), "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"  
And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isa 6.8

5 Things God Needs us TO DO > Design of HIS PLAN of Salvation

1) v. 13 “call on the Lord” > Saving Faith more than Intellectual Assent

Have you Called on Him “Lord Jesus, I need you. I confess I am a sinner. I cannot save myself. I call on you to save me. Help me. Save me from my sin.”

2) v. 14 “believe in Him” > only time Paul uses this Johanne phrase “believe in”

Intellectual belief without a heart commitment is not enough for salvation, but commitment without intellectual understanding is not either.”

YOU MUST BELIEVE IN JESUS IN ORDER TO CALL ON HIM

Mind must be Engaged in knowing who He is, and what He has done for you

Harry Ironside, pastor of the Moody Church in Chicago > invited Gypsy Smith  
Traveling Evangelist from Gypsy Background > Message of Gypsy stories  
After message on Gypsies > Gave Invitation > Many CAME FORWARD  
Ironside “Perhaps they came forward because they wanted to become gypsies”

GOSPEL > Objective Truth, Facts of History, Person and Work of Jesus Christ

UNLESS THE FACTS ARE PROCLAIMED > message is not Christianity  
TRUE FAITH CAN ONLY BE BUILT UPON TRUE GOSPEL FACTS

3) v. 14 “hearing Christ” Gk. NO “of” > Lit. One WHOM they Heard

CHRIST Himself must Speak to YOU > Hear Him > Believe > Call on Him

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.”

John 10.27

NOT ONLY SUBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE > Speaks through Scripture by Spirit

Jesus sent out 72 Preachers "He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me." Luke 10.16

4) v. 14 “preaching to them” HERALD – Ancient Messenger in the Marketplace

First Century’s Human Internet Service / All the news that was fit to Herald

People will not believe in X until they have heard Him speak > THRU messengers

PREACHER IS MAILMAN > Deliver the Letter from Christ

With EAR you may hear Me / With your HEART you should hear Christ

FIRST CENTURY > Oral Communication was Principle Medium

Few people could READ / Few had BOOKS

21<sup>st</sup> C > MORE PRINT MEDIA > More Literacy

STILL SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT PREACHING GOD’S WORD

J.I. PACKER “A true sermon is an act of God, and not a mere performance by man. In real preaching the speaker is the servant of the Word and God speaks and works by the Word through his servant’s lips.”

Text Emphasizes > FUNCTION NOT FORM

Evangelist in American West could not preach without big wooden pulpit

DIFFICULT TASK OF TRANSPORTING IT AROUND city to city

End with

NOT FORM > “Preaching” w/ Notes, Neckties, 3 Points & a Poem > Offering

BUT FUNCTION > Many ways, styles, contexts > Word made known

MANY FORMS > Isaiah walked naked in Jerusalem for 3 years  
Ezekiel laid on his side for a year / Jeremiah broke pottery in marketplace  
Church spreads by most effective form of communication > GOSSIP

5) v. 15 “they are sent” > GOD IS THE SENDER recognized by Church  
LEON MORRIS “A self appointed herald is a contradiction in terms”

v. 15 SENDING lit. Apostello > going under divine marching orders  
PURPOSE of Romans > seeking their support to go to Spain to Preach

JESUS said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.  
Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."  
Matthew 9.38

IF PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HEAR TODAY > we must Send Messengers

ICF > Survey > Lots of Good Ideas & Agreement > World Awareness, Prayer?  
THERE ARE STILL A BILLION PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD

VEHICLE OF COMMUNICATION

v. 15 “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news”

GREAT COMFORT TO ME > Size 13 Feet, Fungus in my Toenails  
BEAUTY is not FORM but FUNCTION > “Beauty is as Beauty Does”

490 BC Warriors of City of Athens fought Persians  
BATTLEFIELD 26 miles downhill from Athens in Plain of MARATHON  
One of Victorious Athenians > ran up from Marathon to Athens  
GASPED out word “Victory” > Collapsed and Died

Ancient People > waiting for news from Battlefield  
SCANNED horizon for lone Runner > distinguished from distance by moving feet  
MOST BEAUTIFUL FEET emerged Victorious from Garden Tomb  
Feet pierced and wounded on the Cross / Stand in Risen Glory & Beauty

JOHN MURRAY “The feet are said to be beautiful because their movements  
betray the character of the message being brought...The purpose is to declare the  
inestimable treasure which the institution of gospel proclamation implies, a  
treasure that consists in the sending of messengers to preach the Word of Christ.”

## What Needs to Happen IN LOGICAL ORDER

1. Christ sends Heralds
2. Heralds preach
3. People hear
4. Hearers believe
5. Believers call
6. Those who Call are Saved

STOTT “The relentless logic of Paul’s case for evangelism is felt most forcibly when the stages are stated negatively and each is seen to be essential to the next. Thus, unless some people are commissioned for the task, there will be no gospel preachers, unless the gospel is preached, sinners will not hear Christ’s message and voice, unless they hear him, they will not believe the truths of his death and resurrection; unless they believe in these truths they will not call on him; and unless they call on his name, they will not be saved.”

SUCCESSFUL Evangelism > Faithfully speak Word of God in the power of the Spirit and leave the Results to God

WE HAVE NO IDEA who are God’s Elect  
SHOCK of Early Christians > Conversion of Saul of Tarsus > DOUBT, FEAR

SAUL KNOCKED OFF HIS HIGH HORSE BY AWESOME GLORY OF JESUS

Galatians 1.22 “I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only heard the report: “The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” And they praised God because of me.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO > if you do not know Christ

v. 11 “trust in Him” / v. 12 “call on Him” / v. 13 “call on the name of the Lord”

“To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 1.2

“Call on the Lord” different contexts > worship, pray, praise / All the Above!

1980 BUS stop at Masaka, Uganda > bus stopped in front of me > doors opened  
HIDEOUS FEET / lumbered down steps / calves, ankles, feet > like Elephant  
Young Woman > face was as Beautiful as her feet were Ugly > RADIANT  
Shocking Introduction to Horrible Disease called ELEPHANTIASIS  
Thought of Woman as learned about another African with that affliction –

Man in West Africa > became Christian > Also Radiant thru Christ

DECIDED > every person in his village should hear gospel > THRU him  
 Monstrous Legs > painfully hobbled from hut to hut > shared Word of Life  
 After Several Months > MISSION ACCOMPLISHED > All Village Heard

Closest Village > 2 miles away > by God's grace this man walked there  
 Again several months passed > Daily struggled along that 4 mile circuit  
 All in the NEIGHBORING VILLAGE HEARD God's News of Love for them

Discussed with his pastor and a Missionary Doctor HIS NEW PLAN  
 Visit NEXT Village > 12 miles away > Preach Gospel of Christ

Step after Step he dragged his Leathery Legs and Gigantic Feet  
 Along a windy Jungle Trail > He finally arrived under the mid-day sun  
 BEFORE taking the food & drink they offered > He told them of Jesus  
 He struggled into that night > Telling every hut in the village about Christ

With no place to stay in the village > He set out for home that very night  
 Thru DARK NIGHT along a DANGEROUS TRAIL > he walked in the joy of  
 knowing he had been used by God as a Gospel Messenger

After Midnight the missionary doctor was awakened by a noise on his front porch. The man had returned from his long mission and had come with his bleeding leg-stumps to the door of the dispensary. The missionary called his helpers and they lifted the man almost unconscious, and put him on one of the beds in the little hospital. The doctor said he had seldom seen such a frightful sight as he looked upon those bleeding feet which had come back from such an errand of love and mercy. Unashamedly, the doctor told of how he had bent over those feet to minister to them, and as he cleaned and dressed them, he told how his tears had fallen with the ointment upon them. The doctor ended the story by saying, "In all my life I do not know when my heart was more drawn out to another Christian believer. All I could think of was the verse in the Word of God. 'How beautiful are the feet of them that bring glad tidings, that publish peace.'"

Here was a man who had been sent by God to tell the story of what Christ had done for him, and although he had to do it at the cost of such personal agony, yet he had not flinched but had gone through to the end to tell needy people the good news of salvation.