

“Our Highest Calling”

Romans 10:14-21

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Teaching Aim: To demonstrate the call each Christian receives to missionary work, even if it is just to our family, neighbors, and friends. To realize some Christians receive a special calling from God to serve in foreign countries, but not everyone. To understand most people will reject Christ, but our evangelistic efforts are worth it even if just one person believes. To recognize the value of each person in God’s eyes and to understand the incredible price Christ has paid for our salvation.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: The good news of the gospel and the need for Christian missionaries (Rom. 10:14-15)

1. **Verse 14** flows naturally from **verse 13**. What is the theme of **verses 13 & 14**? Who must people to call upon if they desire forgiveness and salvation? What happens when people come to faith in Christ and genuinely call upon God for forgiveness? (See **1 John 1:9**) According to **verse 14**, what is a necessary condition for people to come to saving faith? Do you find yourself quick to share the gospel message with other people? Why or why not?
2. In our last teaching on **Romans chapter 10**, the evangelistic tool known as “*The Romans Road*” was introduced. Have you ever tried using this tool to lead someone to Christ? What is your favorite way to share the gospel with other people? I encourage you to highlight the following verses in your Bible: **Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9-10, 13**. By memorizing these verses, you can simply open your Bible and flip through the “*The Romans Road*” verses when sharing Christ with others. It will also help if you have the person you are witnessing to read the verses themselves as you work through them, it will have a more powerful impact on the person.
3. What do you see the role of the preacher being as you read through **verse 14**? (See **2 Tim. 4:2-4**) Where do we find many of the “*preachers*” failing today? Do you find the words of **2 Tim. 4:3 & 4** true in our own day today? If so, why? What should be done to correct this?

4. Both **Isa. 52:7** and **Nah. 1:15** are similar in context as they relate to **Rom. 10:15**. The Nahum passage refers to the destruction by God of Israel's arch enemy Assyria. In doing so, God demonstrated His faithfulness to Israel and the covenant that He made with her. Isaiah's passage refers to "*the good news*" of Judah's deliverance from the Babylonia captivity, once again demonstrating the faithfulness of God against Judah's enemy. What does the gospel bring according to **Rom. 10:15**? What enemy has overpowered every non-believer? How do we get past our sin and find peace with God? (See **Rom 5:1, 8:1**) What can we learn from **1 Cor. 15:55-57**? How should we live our lives as a result? (See **1 Cor. 15:58**)

Part II: The rejection of Messiah by most of Israel and His acceptance by many Gentiles (Rom. 10:16-19)

1. Paul's use of **Isaiah chapters 52 & 53** is staggering when studied in the context. The good news of God's deliverance would be brought to the Israelites by God's Messenger (the Messiah). How did the Jews respond to this report (**vs. 16**)? **Isa. 53** is one of the greatest Messianic prophecies found anywhere in the Bible. Who is the "*Suffering Servant*" of **Isa. 53**? What does this chapter describe? Who do most Jewish rabbis believe the servant is? Why do you think that most of the Jewish people have rejected Jesus as their Messiah? (See **2 Cor. 4:3-4**)
2. Do the majority of people (Jews and Gentiles alike) choose to accept Jesus Christ as Savior, or do they choose to reject Him (**vs. 16**)? Why? Would you say you've been as faithful in sharing the gospel with other people as you should be? If not, why not? What are some of the biggest hinderances of reaching people with the gospel of Christ today? Name someone you would like to share the gospel with but haven't done so as of yet? Will you commit to looking for an opportunity to share Jesus with them this week?
3. According to **verse 17**, what instrument does God use to bring people to saving faith in Jesus? Not every Christian has the gift of evangelism, but every Christian is to evangelize. If the word of God is critical to bringing people to faith in Christ, why don't more Christians use it for evangelism? Friendship evangelism is good and has its place, but at some point, the good news of salvation in Christ needs to be shared verbally. Why do you think so many Christians are afraid to share the gospel with other people? According to **Isa. 55:11**, what will happen if we use God's Word?

4. What is the difference between “*general revelation*” and “*special revelation*?” Israel received “*special revelation*” from God through the prophets and through the Scriptures. If faith comes by hearing, what do the people need to hear (**vs. 17**)? In **verse 18**, Paul quoted from the Book of Psalms to demonstrate that Israel had also been given plenty of opportunities to receive God’s “*general revelation*” (in other words God’s revelation that comes through creation). Although “*national Israel*” didn’t come to faith in Jesus at this time, did individual Israelites? If so, who are some biblical examples?

5. Paul has earlier quoted Isaiah and David in helping to make his point. What other Old Testament giant did Paul quote from in **verse 19** to show that national Israel had received every opportunity to believe? What caused the LORD (meaning Yahweh) to become jealous in **Deut. 32:15-21**? In the Old Testament, Israel is seen as the bride of Yahweh? Who is seen as the bride of Christ in the New Testament? (See **Rev. 21:1-5; 22:17**) Since Israel was unfaithful to her heavenly husband, who would God turn to according to Moses? Moses wrote this to the Hebrews 1,200 to 1,400 years before Christ. Should the Israelites have been surprised at the news that God would choose to save some Gentiles as well? What can we learn from **Rom. 11:11** about God’s purpose in reaching out and saving some Gentiles?

Part III: God’s amazing love and the sacrifice of His Son for sinners (Rom. 10:20-21)

1. In **verses 20 & 21**, Paul returned to the prophet Isaiah and quoted from **Isa. 65:1-2**. **Isa. 65** is another monumental chapter in the Old Testament that points to the millennial reign of Jesus Christ as well as to the new heavens and new earth. What group of people was Paul speaking of in **verse 20** when he referred to, “*those who did not seek Me?*”

2. The predominant philosophy of ministry practiced by many evangelical churches today is what is called “*the seeker sensitive model*.” Under this philosophy of ministry, “*the church service*” is directed primarily towards reaching “*the seeker*” (or supposedly the unbeliever fervently seeking after God). This becomes the focus of the worship service instead of those who have come to worship God and grow in their faith. According to **verse 20**, were the unbelieving Gentiles “*seeking*” after God or was it God who opened the door for them? What can we learn from **Psa. 14:1-3** and **Rom. 3:9-12**? How many unbelievers seek after God according to these verses? What if any danger is there in churches using the “*seeker sensitive*” model of ministry? Will it strengthen the church or weaken it over time? Why? Is this philosophy based on a true or false premise?

3. According to the prophet Isaiah, how did God respond to Israel's disobedience and unbelief (**vs. 21**)? What can we learn about God's character from **verse 21**? What is the ultimate example of God's love with outstretched arms in the Bible? (See **Phil. 2:8-11; Col. 1:18-22**) As we picture Jesus on the cross with outstretched arms, why do you think so many people reject this loving offer to salvation?
4. Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so right now in prayer? If you have already received Jesus as your Savior but have wandered away, why not rededicate your life to Him right now?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- To some extent, every Christian is called to be a missionary.
- Some missionaries receive a special calling to serve in foreign lands, but not all.
- Isaiah anticipated the mass rejection of Christ in **Isaiah 53** in the chapter that is known as "*The Suffering Servant*" chapter of the Bible.
- Not only did Israel receive God's "*general revelation*" (through nature) as David describes in **Psalms 19**, but Israel also received God's "*special revelation*" through the prophets and God's written word.
- The invitation to receive "*the good news of Jesus Christ*" is extended to all, Jews and Gentiles alike.
- God's love for His people is ultimately demonstrated through the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins. (See **Isa. 53:1-12; Rom. 3:21-26**)