

Hopewell ARP Midweek Sermon
Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Romans 10:13–17

¹³For “*whoever calls* on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴How 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? ¹⁵And 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!*” ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “*Lord, who has believed our report?*” ¹⁷So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Faith Comes by Hearing Jesus

Main idea: saving faith comes through hearing Jesus address our heart, even as the preacher whom He has sent addresses our ears.

Introduction: the privilege of calling upon the Lord into Whom we have believed, and Whom we know to be saving us—not only from our circumstances but through them (v13).

1. **Union with the One upon Whom we call, v14a**
 1. v14 implies that the only way we can engage in this type of calling upon Him is if we have believed “into” (more literally) Him.
 2. Union with Christ is the cause of the type of “calling” in v13. Do you know yourself to be joined to Him by faith? Is your reflex, in trouble, to call upon His Name?
2. **Faith comes by hearing Him, v14b**
 1. The second question is, literally, “How shall they believe Whom they have not heard?”
 2. The implication is that believing into Him comes by hearing Him Himself. There is no ordinary hope of faith apart from hearing Jesus.
 3. It is no obstacle to us that He has not physically visited us or addressed us. n.b. Eph 2:17, 4:20–21.
 4. Have you heard Jesus? Are you crying out to Him to address you? To call you, effectually to Himself (cf. 8:30, 9:11, 9:24)?
3. **Hearing Him comes by hearing preachers whom He sends, v14c–15.**
 1. The third question implies that there is no ordinary hope of hearing Jesus apart from His Word, and especially the preaching of His Word.

2. This should make us very careful about the idea that “Jesus spoke to me,” apart from the text itself on the page, or hearing that text proclaimed (cf. Heb 2:12, 12:25).
3. n.b. that what is beautiful in Isa 52:7 is the feet. The value of a preacher is not in how good he sounds, but that he is genuinely sent by Christ.
4. **But merely hearing the preacher does not give faith or save,**
v16–17
 1. Isaiah, like Paul, proclaimed the gospel to many who did not believe (v16, cf. Isa 53:1).
 2. While the Jesus-sent preacher addresses our ears, as the means that Jesus uses, it is Jesus’s addressing our heart that gives (or grows) faith. Faith comes by hearing... the Word of God!

Conclusion: Would you walk in union with Jesus, effectually calling upon His Name to save you in and from every trouble? Look to Him to effectually call your own heart: to address your heart with His faith-giving Word, while His sent-preacher addresses your ears with that Word.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans 10 verses 13 through 17. These are god's words. For whoever calls on the name of the lord shall be saved. 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?

And how shall they preach? Unless they are sent. As it has written. How beautiful are the feet? Of those who preach the gospel of peace. Who bring glad tidings of good things. But they have not all obeyed, the gospel. For isaiah says, lord. Who has believed our report. So then faith comes by hearing.

And hearing by the word. Of god. Amanda sends this reading. Of gods inspired and inherent.

Believing upon the lord, jesus christ does not something that occurs just once. That first time when we are. Uh brought by his effectual calling to saving faith and united to him and made right with god in him, that happens once for all adopted by god in him that happens once for all But believing in him is an ongoing way of life.

For the christian. It's something that we will do forever. Of course. One day faith will become sight. But we will still live by that faith in him. Even as. We see him. And believing on him in the heart as we have been hearing also comes out of our mouths.

By way of calling upon his name. And so the verse that we had at the end of last week's portion, the verse with which we are beginning. Again this week is verse 13 for whoever calls on the name of the lord. Shall be saved. This is our privilege if you have believed into the lord Jesus Christ.

That you would be continually continually calling upon his name him, you have known him. Um, he who whom your soul loves? And who loves you, even? As the messengers from Bethany came and addressed Jesus. In Galilee. Um, Well in John 11, I say Lord him, whom you love. Is sick.

And this calling upon the name of the lord then is As much away of life for the Christian's mouth as believing in him, and walking by faith in him as a way of life. For the Christian's heart. We know that he is saving us that he who has written all of our days in his book before, one of them came to be, he who works all things according to the council of his will.

That whenever we are in a situation that is difficult or even find That our remaining sin. Is difficult. Why, why is it like this or why am I? Like this, why am I experiencing this? One of the answers to that question for the believer is always Because he is saving me.

Remember it was that groaning in the spirit who prays according to the mind of God. So that Uh, so that wonder upon wonders whatever happens. We know is exactly according to how the Holy Spirit prays and how we would pray, if we knew how to pray better, but we do not know how to pray for what we thought.

So the Spirit helps us that that is what leads into that. Wonderful favorite rightly so verse Uh, we know, we know that all things work together for good for Uh, those who love God the Father, according to his purpose. And, We know therefore, that part of his working all things together for good, is his giving to us to call upon his name.

That when by the Spirit, whom he has made to dwell in our hearts, we call him Abba in union, by our adoption, with his only begotten Son, that the Triune God is glorified by suffering. Christians calling upon his name in the certainty. That what he is doing in our circumstances as what he will do in response to our prayers.

And that he has planned from the beginning so that we turn on its head that weird unbelieving question. If God already knows why pray and we say we pray because God already knows. That he saves through and in response. To the calling upon his name. By his people, by his adopted children who are united to Jesus and have believed into him.

And so there is this entire theology of calling upon his name. That was in the heart of chapter 8 that has brought forward. Now, as he is, He's been making the point about God, bringing his word near us and he being the one who puts his word in our heart, he being the one who puts his word on our lips and especially putting his own name.

On our lips, the Lord Jesus whom we confess that Jesus is Yahweh. And that Yahweh became a man named Jesus to save us. And we call upon his name. We call upon the name of the one who has done this knowing that we shall certainly be saved out of every adversity, through every adversity, even in his perfect wisdom, which dwarfs us and often in our confusion and our perplexity.

By means, By means of what we are going through. He is bringing us. Uh, into the full enjoyment of experience of his Salvation. He saves us, not only from our circumstances or out

of our circumstances, but through and by means of those circumstances that he has lovingly, Assigned to each one of us.

As we have several times recently, quoted from the end of matthew 6 and is loving provision of food, and his loving provision of drink and clothing. And also sufficient for the day is its own trouble. He who has assigned to his only begotten son. The great trouble of the cross to glorify god and to save all, who are his through, what he suffered giving us that conformity to Christ's suffering, assigning to us, not the portion that only the lord, jesus only, the son could ever endure.

But for, but assigning to each one of his adopted children. The portion of suffering that is worth just right for them, giving us each of us that opportunity to glorify him as we depend upon him through it, as we call upon his name, in particular here, in Romans 10 verses 13 through 17 through it.

And so this calling upon his name to be saved. Initiates this question then of how we can call upon him, how can i come into this life? Of knowing the lord, jesus, and living in fellowship with him, calling, upon his name being in, not only having conversation with him.

As. The shape or the nature of my life which by the way is an old older christian way of speaking. Perhaps You have. Investigated and shocked for Puritan books and every once in a while you'll come across One that That refers to the godly man's conversation or the christians conversation and it's it's basically the the same thing that we mean when we say walk with the lord, And yet you get much more of that interaction with the lord in that word conversation.

How can we come into it? And the answer is we come into it by union with him. And we come into union with him. By believing and we come. Uh, believing into him and we come into by believing into him. By hearing him. And we hear him. By means of Preachers whom he sends to address our ears.

While the lord jesus, who is addressing our ears with the scripture, through the preacher is addressing our hearts. With the scripture. By his spirit. And so hearing him through preachers whom he sends and therefore remembering whenever we come to hear a preacher. That it is not, merely the listening to the faithfully.

Explained and proclaimed words of the pages of the bible. But it is, especially that, as that is done in addressing our ears, we hear in faith. We hear looking to jesus, to address our hearts responding to him from the heart. As he addresses our ears by the preacher whom he sends, And so, And briefly this evening, we consider.

The passage before us under these headings union, with the one upon whom we call In the first place, and the second place faith comes by hearing it. And the third place hearing him comes by hearing preachers. Whom he sends And fourth. But merely hearing the preacher. Does not give faith or safe.

It is hearing jesus. That gives faith and grows faith. And saves not just in that. Uh, that moment and time when we were justified, but in all of the ongoing work that he does, Giving us that perseverance and that character. As he shapes us, and our sanctification. Until and unto.

Our glorification is in god's good providence. We just heard together. Lord, stem morning, first, then union with the one upon whom We call verse 14 begins. How then shall they call on him into whom? That's a little more literal translation there. How then shall they call on him into whom they have not believed?

Now that question implies that the only way we can engage in the type of calling upon him, that is sure to be heard that is sure to be responded with by salvation. Is if we have believed into the lord jesus christ, In other words, this calling upon him, that is effectual.

Is, is part of a Relationship with him a Believing into him and being united to him. It's not. Mechanical. So that if you figure out the right way of praying, Uh, the right words to say you can kind of get out of god. By saying the prayer correctly, you can get out of god.

What you want? No, it's not that at all. And that's not like magical or mystical. As if praying as some sort of incantation that if you just use jesus's name and perhaps, in addition to using his name, use the right kind of wording that you can get from god that which is That, which is In jesus's name.

And there are branches of the Of the visible church. That teach that sort of praying. Even. Even suggesting vain repetitions that if you use the form that they have given you, You can use not just jesus's name, but they even if some branches think that mary's name has Some power in it too and this kind of magical mystical.

And then there are those who are not in. Uh, roaming catholic or other. Idolatrous. Branches of the church and yet they still think that if they just get the praying The praying right and use jesus's name in the right way. If they're just sincere enough. Perhaps. If they just are certain enough.

Many branches of the visible church. Teach that sort of calling upon the name of the lord, don't they? Oh, you just didn't pray with enough faith. Uh, you know, that's why you still have the cancer, that's why. You are still. Paralyzed. But no. That is not the sort of calling upon his name that is responded to by god was salvation.

No. It's calling upon his name as the one into whom we have believed. The one in whom is all of our life. The one in whom is all of our hope. The one in whom we have been made right with god. The one in whom we have been adopted by God.

We having been crucified and now the life, we live living by faith in him. So that we don't need to be cancer free and we don't need to get up out of our wheelchair just now But we need is to live in union with him. To depend upon him and be devoted to him and have our delight in him.

And some and his saving us is bringing us more and more into that into that holiness without which we will not see the lord. And we will certainly. We will certainly be healed to the cancer and get up out of the wheelchair and and enjoy new limbs if we are amputees.

Just because it waits until the resurrection doesn't make it less real. In fact, it is more real is not the sort of decaying body that people want to fix now is the conformed to christ glorified body. That will never get ill or Or injured ever again in glory. And so this is the prayer of faith.

This is the effective prayer. The prayer that comes in union with the lord jesus christ into whom We have believed. Union with christ is the type of calling, upon the name of the lord, that verse 13, describes union, the with christ as the cause of it. We call upon him because he is our everything.

Not because We think that if we use his name, we may get something else. That we want from him. And so do you know yourself? To be joined to jesus christ by faith. Is he your life? Are you are your groanings do your groanings include even primarily? Knowing him more loving him, better obeying him, depending upon him more consistently, being devoted to him with your life, delighting In him.

And living this life of a conversation with him. Is it your reflex and trouble? To call upon his name. Like peter. When he begins to sink. There's only one help there is for him. Lord help. He's calling upon jesus. Well, in the second place, we say, see that this faith.

This faith by which we believe into him comes by hearing him. There. We have to do a little translation work here. How shall they believe in him? Of whom they have. Not heard says the New King James, but it's actually very literally in. I think new american standard. If i remember correctly, does pretty good job with it but it's even more short and abrupt than that.

How shall they believe whom they have not heard? That this believing into him is actually a response to him himself when he addresses us. How shall they believe whom they have not heard the implication? Is that believing into jesus comes by hearing jesus himself? In other words, there is no ordinary hope of faith.

Apart from being addressed by the lord jesus christ. Now, peter says though, you have not seen him, you love him. But even though his readers had not seen him, they had heard. The lord jesus. And you too. If you have believed in jesus christ, you this came not Not by so much by the human instrument that he used, who was addressing your ears at the time that he addressed you.

But this came by jesus himself. Addressing your heart speaking to your heart. And there's no obstacle to us. That he has not physically visited where we are or physically addressed our ears. For we know that it is, he who has proclaimed peace to us and it is he who has taught us The apostle speaks to this way, to the ephesians, when he wishes to drive home to them that the peace that they have with god.

And therefore, that they ought to have with one another is real and true that it is a sure, peace. Ephesians 2 verse 17 and he came this is the lord jesus christ. How do we know? Because the he comes from verse 16, the one who reconciles, Both. The jew and the gentile to god, he ran.

He Verse 16 that he might reconcile them. Both to god in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity and he came and preached peace to you who are far off and to those Who were near? We know that the lord jesus at his earthly. Life, never visited Ephesus.

And yet, when he sent his preacher, Those beautiful footed, preachers. To borrow from our passage this evening. To Ephesus with the gospel and in particular, The apostle Paul. Uh, preaching. That. That as he did there for three years. That jesus himself was proclaiming peace. And then later in in chapter 4, Of Ephesians, he says, but you have not so learned christ if indeed you have heard him and been taught by him as the truth is.

In jesus. And so there's this wonderful reality that the bible teaches us that That makes the preaching and teaching by which the Lord jesus has brought us to faith. And by which the lord, jesus is grown us in faith. Makes it more precious and more intimate. Even than just those who have been become beloved to us, and the lord, In.

In ministering to us. And you get the sense of that. And hebrews 13 verse 7 and hebrews 13 verse 17, especially wanting them to conduct their ministry with joy. And there's fellowship and sweetness in that. But how much more? The sweetness of knowing is a theological fact from the bible.

What we may not have been able to? Perceive. In the dynamic of hearing the preaching. Uh, ourselves not may not have been able to perceive it ourselves. That jesus was the one

proclaiming. To our hearts and Jesus was the one. Teaching us, we heard him we were taught by him and we still are indeed by faith.

That is our hope right now. We do hope. Of course, that the Bible is being preached accurately and that the appeal to your ears is, is sincere and appropriate. But that is not our hope that has not the hope of what we are doing the hope of what we are doing.

Now, what you are doing now is that Jesus is addressing your heart with his word. And that you are hearing him and you are learning from him. Your responding to him. Ephesians 2 talks about him proclaiming his peace to you here. He's he's proclaiming your fellowship with him and his hearing you and you call upon his name and his being the one who is giving you the faith that you need, the faith that you like the faith that you couldn't give to yourself in the first place before you had it and that faith came by hearing.

And yet we often come to him. Don't we Lord I believe help my unbelief. My measure of faith, thus far. Oh Lord, you to use that language from a chapter and a half or so. Now, Of in accordance with the measure of faith that God has given you. And plumbing that God will continue to give you more measure out more faith to you, and we look to him to be doing that even now And so they ask you, have you heard Jesus?

And when I ask you that, I'm I'm not saying have you perceived, an inner voice. No. I'm asking, have you come to believe into him? Whom the scriptures describe whom you have heard preached to you. And then you can say, I have heard Jesus. You've probably met believers. Who are aching for some audible word.

Or maybe who have claimed to have heard an audible word and perhaps your own heart has wished. Oh, if I could only hear Jesus like that, Oh, if you have believed in Jesus Christ, you have heard him. That's where faith comes from. And if you haven't, you can look to him to give you.

That hearing. For our calling upon him, comes by his effectually, calling us. To himself. The called according to his purpose, Romans 8:28 those whom he predestined. He also called Romans 8 verse 30. Then you remember in In chapter 9 and verse 11, the purpose of God is according To election not of works, but of him who calls chapter 9, verse 11 and then chapter 9 verse 24 Even us whom he called not of the Jews, only, but also the Gentiles.

And all of those callings are referring, not to the external. Call the outward call where a man may preach to a congregation that has among it elect and reprobate. And they all hear the same gospel. Justice. Some of us have grown up in the church and we heard the same gospel and, and some have have rejected, the faith and have rejected Christ and are not walking with him.

And we, we say, how Lord, why am I believing in? You and walking with you? Why do I have salvation began? And sure to be completed when they didn't. And the answer is Because he called you. He spoke to your heart, you heard him and he gave you faith.

By that hearing. So we say, oh, I want to hear Jesus. If only I might hear Jesus. How can I hear him? Well, that is answered by the implications of the third question. In verse 14. How shall they hear? Without a preacher. Now, listen to the implication of that question.

The implication of that question is. If they haven't. Heard the scripture. And especially in this case, the scripture preached, Then they haven't heard Jesus. He says how shall they hear without a preacher? Now there are many who speak in a way in the visible church. There are many who speak in a way that, that would say, well, They don't need a preacher, we can all hear Jesus.

Just speaking inside us. Now, we know that the scriptures are the word of christ, even the old testament. First, peter won't tell us that The those by whom the lord wrote, the the scriptures of the Old Testament were writing by the spirit of christ, and the new testament, of course, is the fulfillment.

Of the lord jesus's promise and john 16 when he said he had many things to say to them but they couldn't bear them at the time and And he would send the spirit of truth. He would send the one who gave them the words that remain, the things that remain, because he would speak from the lord's jesus himself.

And so, yes. If you want to hear jesus, you can read the bible out loud. Uh, but There is the particular stated blessing here, the particular stated reality. That jesus as the one who sends faithful preachers. So that by his appointment, by his design. When a faithful preacher, addresses, our ears.

With the scripture proclaims, the word faithfully. The lord jesus himself. Is addressing believers hearts. He is effectually calling at first to bring us to faith in him and effectually using his word to grow that faith. So this should make us very careful. About saying and speaking about, Jesus, speaking to us on the one hand, apart from reading the bible, a part from hearing, Faithful scripture preaching by By biblically ordained and sent men.

It should make us careful about the idea that jesus spoke to me apart from those things. But it also should make us very careful about what we do with the bible. And with faithful preaching. Because these are indeed the words of jesus that are on the by that are on the pages of scripture, and we need to have them do more than just go into our ears.

We need his spirit to make our hearts. Good soil. So that we will not. Neglect such a great salvation that was spoken at first, by those, who heard hebrews two says, at the beginning of the chapter but don't neglect. That 11 verses into the chapter. It reminds us that jesus is the one who declares his father's name in the midst of the congregation.

Which is why hebrews 12 warns us, see that you do not refuse him, who speaks. And you say, well, that's a lot to say about the man on earth. His proclaiming the words of scripture into my ears but that's not what he was 12 is talking about, is it Because it says, if they did not escape, who refused him, who spoke from earth, how much less Will we?

If we refuse him who speaks from heaven. Referring to the lord jesus. Who addresses our hearts? And so we must be very careful. And prayerful to look to jesus. To give us the The soft-heartedness. The submission. The reverence and awe it's coming out of that conversation or that that discussion of hearing preaching in the right way because the preaching that we hear on earth is shaking not just earth.

But also heaven because he who addresses us in, it sits on the throne of heaven and he is giving us an unshakable kingdom and using his word that he proclaims to us to bring us into possession of that unshakable kingdom. And that is what leads to the conclusion. Let us have grace.

That we may worship acceptably and you say well that means following the regulative principle, right? Well yes it does. It means only worshiping the way jesus has said but more immediately to the context there in Hebrews chapter 12 It means listening. With a submissive heart. Receiving and responding to the lord jesus who addresses us.

In the preaching. And that is Grace to worship acceptably with reverence. And all. And doesn't it strike you? Aren't you all struck to think? To realize. That when the lord, Sends his preacher. That he is addressing your heart. This is why in that wonderful quote. In verse, 15 from isaiah 52.

Verse 7, he says, How beautiful are the feet? Of those who preach the gospel of peace. Who bring blood tidings. Of good things. You might think how beautiful is the mouth or How beautiful is the tongue? But it's the feet because the most beautiful thing about this piece that is being preached and this client, these glad tidings that are being proclaimed.

Is who has sent the message. That the lord himself has sent the message. This is why the doctrine of Ordination and following the scriptures rightly to identify the biblical way those whom the lord has called to this ministry. So important, this is why those who are in the ministry.

Preparing in the right way and not just thinking academically and structurally. But In submission to the word to preach. What the word says. Is so important. Because we want to preaching that comes with a beautiful feet preaching that has sent from jesus himself. That he might address our hearts.

Hearing him comes by hearing preachers. Whom he sends, but is not enough to have A jesus sent preacher. Look at verse 16 and 17. But they have not all obeyed. The gospel that is to say the message that jesus has given and sent preachers to preach. For isaiah says, lord.

Who has believed our report. Isaiah was sent by jesus. He preached a gospel of peace from jesus. And he preached. To multitudes who. Rather than Believing in and resting upon the cornerstone. The lord himself who had sent the preacher with this. Good news of peace. They stumbled over him as a stumbling stone.

They didn't believe they didn't rest upon the lord. They didn't rest upon christ. They rested upon themselves and their efforts as if it were by works of the law and their ideas, as we have gone through much of isaiah. You can remember so many of those passages. And so, just having the jesus sent preacher.

With jesus's own message in your ears. That does not give faith or grow faith. By itself. So, the conclusion verse 17, faith comes by hearing. And as this wonderful, Dynamic where yes you have. Jesus sent preachers with jesus sent message. Her jesus given message. And yet, it's not the Entering into our ears.

Or even our thoughts. Of those words that we hear that gives faith. Faith comes by hearing. And hearing by the word of god. He gives us that saving hearing that saving believing. By his addressing. Our souls. Would you walk in union with jesus? Would you effectually call upon his name?

To save you in and from, and through every trouble. Then look to him. To effectually call your own heart. To address your heart with his faith-giving word. Whether reading the bible, Or especially. While jesus sent preachers. Address your ears with the jesus given message. On the pages of scripture.

May he give us? Such preaching and such hearing. By the ministry of his spirit. Amen.