

Romans 10:14–17

Jesus Gives Faith by Hearing Him

Monday, January 8, 2024 ▫ **Read Romans 10:14–17**

Questions from the Scripture text: What does v14 begin by asking about Jews and Greeks? Why do they need to call upon Him? What do they need to do in order to call upon Him? From Whom do they need to hear in order to believe in Him? By what method has He appointed for them to hear Him? From where do these preachers come (v15)? Where can we find out about these preachers? What did Isaiah 52:7 say were beautiful? What do they come to preach? What do they bring with them? What is not guaranteed merely by being in the presence of preaching (v16)? How does v16b imply that this unbelieving response is actually very common (cf. Isa 53:1; Jn 12:37–38)? How does faith come (v17)? How does hearing come?

How can Jews and Greeks come to believe in Jesus and call upon the name of the Lord Jesus? Romans 10:14–17 prepares us for the sermon in the midweek prayer meeting. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the Lord sends preachers, whose message He accompanies by His own calling in the heart, through which He gives saving faith.**

Calling upon the Name of the Lord. How great is the privilege that we have to call upon YHWH, by crying out to Jesus! How wonderful to know that those who do so will be saved! Jesus is that glorious Name by which YHWH has given to us to call upon Him (v9, 13; cf. Joel 2:32). But many Jews and Greeks (v12) are not calling upon the Name of the Lord Jesus. They are not confessing the Lord Jesus with their mouth. But how could they? They haven't believed into Him. And how can they call on Him into Whom they have not believed?

Hearing the Lord Himself. At this point v14 asks a question that is not translated well in the NKJ. Literally, it reads, "How shall they believe Whom they have not heard?" It is Christ Himself Whom we hear and respond to in saving faith. This is how the apostle could remind the Ephesians that they had heard Christ preaching to them (cf. Eph 2:17) and teaching them (cf. Eph 4:20–21). There is no faith without hearing Christ Himself!

How We Hear Jesus: Preachers. Perhaps, like their author, my dear readers have heard people say that "Jesus spoke to them"—meaning a voice or a feeling inside their heads. But the Bible doesn't teach us to expect to hear Him this way. In fact, this verse teaches us to expect the very opposite, when it says, "How shall they hear, without a preacher?" In other words: the real Jesus, Who really gives saving faith by hearing Him, gives that hearing of Him not by a still small voice in our head but by the audible voice of a preacher whom He has sent!

How We Get Preachers: Jesus. v15 quotes Isaiah 52:7 to compliment the attractiveness of preachers' feet. Doesn't that seem odd to us! But the point is that the beauty of the preacher is not just what comes from his lips. The beauty of the preacher is from whence he has been sent. Jesus has sent him, so his feet are beautiful, because we see him coming to us as from our Redeemer.

The Preaching and Hearing that Saves. Of course, there is more to hearing Jesus than hearing, in a merely outward way, the preacher that He sends us. The quote from Isa 53:1, in v16, reminds us that Israel's rejection of Christ and His Word was rampant long before His incarnation and acts of redemption. They heard Isaiah addressing their ears, but they did not hear the Spirit of Christ addressing their hearts with those words (cf. 1Pet 1:11). In the same way, many Jews and Greeks had heard Paul addressing their ears, but they did not hear Christ addressing their hearts with those words. So faith comes by hearing (v17) not the voice of the preacher in our ear, but those same words by which God addresses our heart. "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

O, dear reader, get yourself to a church where the Scriptures are preached. And look to His Spirit to address your heart with those words. Seek from God that faith that comes by hearing Him, as He uses the preacher He has sent to you for that purpose. And, as you come more and more to know Him Whom you have heard, and into Whom you have believed, you will ever more naturally call upon Him in your distresses, knowing that He will save you out of them all.

In the difficulties of every day, how naturally does your heart (and mouth) call upon the Lord Jesus? How is this a gauge of whether you are believing in Him? What has He done for you to give you faith and to increase that faith? In what way, by His grace, should you listen to preaching in order to grow in faith?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for giving to us Your own Son as our faith-giving Preacher. And thank You for those human preachers whom Jesus sends, as He gives us His word by their lips. Grant unto them the ministry of Your Spirit, that they may preach faithfully, and it may be Your word that we hear. And grant unto us the ministry of Your Spirit, that Your word would do its work in our hearts, which we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP119W "Lord, Let My Cry Before You Come" or TPH172 "Speak, O Lord"

(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 14 through 17. These are God's words. How then shall they call on him and whom they have not believed? And how so they believe in him whom they have not heard. And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how so 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.

But they have not all. Made the gospel for isaiah says, lord who has believed our report So then faith comes by hearing. And hearing. By the word of god.

So far the reading of gods inspired and inherent word.

One of the great blessings of knowing the lord and trusting in him. Is that whether we are facing the? Entrenched nature of our own sin or Are in an impossible situation, or we have an enemy, he threatens us or Um, a huge responsibility that feels too great for us, whatever it is.

Uh, we may always cry out to the one in whom we believe. And we know that whatever this part of his work in our lives is Um, it's a part of his work in our lives. It's one of the things that is appointed between. When he brought us to faith and when he perfects us in faith, And that whole work of saving us is going to complete.

And so we're picking up now. Verse 13. From the end of last week's portion in Romans 10, whoever calls on the name of the lord shall be saved. It's a great comfortable thing to be able to cry out to god and know. That he will always answer. Uh, in a saving way.

Uh, whatever. Uh, part of his work of saving us. He's actually appointed for the time that we're in. And so, there is this delightful aspect to the life of faith that even in miserable circumstances, there is sweet fellowship, with dependence, upon Uh, the lord. Who gave himself for us and who will finish the salvation that he has begun.

And there's a, there's a sweetness and calling upon his name and knowing that he hears, and that he answers and that answers by saving. Sadly, there are many Jews

and greeks, and this is both Jews and greeks. Although Isaiah's. Question. Um, isaiah 53. Quoted in verse 16? Uh, is especially with respect to the israelites.

Uh, but there are many Jews in greeks. Who have not believed into him, they don't have union with christ. They are unable to live by faith. They are not enjoying this walking with him. That is. Uh, one of these middle points. That participate in their salvation that are part of the work that he's planned in.

Saving them, they don't have. This sort of life and verse 14, then asks This rhetorical question. How can they call on the end? In him, they have not believed. We must have believed into the lord. Jesus christ, been united and by faith. In order to walk with him. In order to call upon him in the midst of our walking with him.

So, how does faith come Faith comes by hearing him. Um, no new american standard. Does a better job of the translation here. And new king james, sadly. Translates, how should they believe? In him of whom they have not heard. Uh, it's very simply. How shall they believe whom they have not heard.

It's jesus himself that it's asking. Um, That they believing into jesus does not come. Um, Faith is not produced by hearing someone else. It's about produced by hearing him. Uh, now the name of the lord here, the name of the lord jesus. And in verse 14, there's the same as the word of god verse 17, faith comes by earring and hearing by the word of god.

So they have to hear jesus. Well, how can we hear jesus? Well, because jesus speaks through preachers. That when he sends a preacher who is Whom he keeps faithful to preach the word of god to preach truly. That which we find recorded in the scriptures. That while the preacher addresses, the ear.

With those words. The lord jesus. Addresses, the heart. With those words. And so, you have these Um, These wonderful statements to the ephesians. In chapter 2, talking about the preaching. Of peace. He says in verse 17,

And it's talking about christ is coming out of verse 16. He says that he might reconcile them both to god in one body through the cross, thereby putting death to debt the enmity. And he came and preached. Peace to you, who are far off into those who are near for through him.

We both have access by one spirit to the father While the he and the heaven. Verse 16, and verse 18 is quite clearly jesus and there's not a change. So, in verse 17 and saying, jesus came and preached peace, To ephesians, both Jew, and greek, or Greek, and Jew, and balance you.

And in this case, When did jesus visit Ephesus? The answer is whenever, Um, Whenever the preachers that he sent came to Ephesus in this case, Uh, the apostle make well be referring to zone breaching. And then in chapter 4, verses 20 and 21. But you have not so learned christ if indeed, you have heard him and been taught by him.

And so, Hearing and being hearing jesus and being taught by jesus. Is the actual currents or the actual Way that god gives us faith now. This is a This is a very high view of preaching and ought to make us. To cry out to god that. As the preacher addresses, our ears.

The lord jesus by his spirit. Would address our hearts. Because this is a reality. Sadly, there are many, who will say Uh, say things like, well, jesus told me this or jesus told me that What they were, what their implant talking about. Um, like a small voice inside their head or something.

Or something like that. But this passage says How shall they hear without a preacher? The implication is it is not God's ordinary way. For the lord, jesus to address people just by a voice in their heads. God's ordinary way is ordained. Way is appointed way. For. Addressing us is through preachers preachers, whom he sends How we gut preachers and how we hear jesus as preachers.

And now we get preachers is jesus. Not the quote from isaiah 52 in verse 15. How shall they preach unless they are sent As it is written. How beautiful are the feet? Now. There have been men who Um, We're such great preachers. That for instance, chris host on one of the Uh, most faithful and Um, And effective under the lord preachers.

In the early church, he was named golden tongue. I don't know if i've ever read. Of any preachers being called golden foot. But here is how beautiful are the feet. Of those who preach the gospel of peace. And the focus then by, Um, By focusing on the feet. Then it focuses on.

Uh, the sender and the sending. That's a wonderful thing about a preacher is not who he is. Or how well? He preaches even It's The one from whose presence, he has come. It is the one who has sent him. Um, A preacher has a duty then not only to be Faithful to the text that is on the page, but submitted to the lord jesus.

And his in spirit and meditating upon the word. Um, Before the lord. So that he comes as it were by virtue of his ordination and his installation and recognizing and doing this things according to the bible. But also in an ongoing Practical way in his life that he comes.

From the presence of the lord, with the word of the lord to Uh, proclaim in the hearing of the people. Uh, what the lord says. In the word. And, Uh, this being jesus's. Uh, design. When we sit under preaching, we should consider the preacher to have beautiful feet. Uh, we should consider preachers and preaching as a gift from christ.

A gift by which Um not only will the preacher now. Address our ears. But the lord jesus, he has ordained. And appointed this entire arrangement, we would look to him to address our hearts. And that's why it's the feet of the preacher in particular. That is that are beautiful.

In verse 52. And so, this is the The preaching and hearing that saves. The preaching, there's preaching and hearing. That is merely man to man. That by which the preacher addresses, the ears of the hearer. But that preaching doesn't always give faith. I Isaiah and chapter 52. Sorry, isaiah chapter 53, as quoted in, Verse 16 here refers to those who had the man to man, preaching to hearing isaiah's human preaching to their merely human hearing and what was the result?

So few believed, isaiah is preaching that it seemed like no one did at all, which is the implied answer to the rhetorical question, who has believed our report. And so yahweh has sanitizen isaiah's has preached and people have heard him, but they didn't believe. When they heard him. No, the hearing that produces faith.

Is when the lord addresses the heart in a way that has the Um, faith giving power. In it and he exercises power to give faith. As he addresses the heart. And so there's a very different sort of hearing. When you have the merely, Um, Man, preaching, and man hearing Verse 16.

Versus that hearing in, which the lord effectually calls. So, now we've had many times, Uh, since Uh, About two-thirds of the way through chapter 8, many references to god. Calling. God addressing the heart of a man, whom he has foreign and predestined. And therefore he also calls Salvation is not.

By anything that man does. But by god, Who calls? So it's uh, it's god. Who who gives this effectual calling? By the addressing of the heart, which he has appointed. To come through the preaching. Of the word. And so, Um, We could pray that the lord would keep me faithful.

Uh, to the word as i preach. And that he would come and also attend the preaching in power That while the the audible words are addressing the ears, The lord jesus would address your heart. And the hearts of others. And if you should ever come into a situation where You no longer were able to have me.

As. Pastor, as you're a preacher. It is vitally important. That you be in a church where the scriptures are preached. Where they're preached. Faithfully where they are. Preached looking to the lord to make his word. Effectual. Because the mere. Speaking and hearing audibly of words, although that is god's appointed method and you must not of course, be in a church where those things are absent.

Um, But that by itself. Does not have in it. Any faith-giving life-giving sanctifying Efficacy. It is the lord himself addressing the heart. With the words that are addressed to the ears. That is efficacious. Whether forgiving faith. Or for growing faith. Let's pray.

Father, we pray that you would Help us to. Receive your word soft-heartedly that you would always be with us by your spirit. So that we would not just Here with the ear. But that you would address our hearts and make us. By that very faith-giving word. To believe and receive and believe into jesus.

That we might have this life of fellowship with him and calling upon his name. We pray that you would, Help me to. Remember. What preaching is, and who is appointed at? And Who has sent me and How it is made effectual. So that we will. Engage according to your word for those.

Who hear oh lord, give them faith. Do not. We pray. Let many or any. Who are among us. Especially in our home. Also, in our congregation. It'll be subject to. Um, What i say, i was implying, when he asked you had believed Your report. So help us lord, we pray and Be among us in power by your spirit.

Through your word. We ask in jesus name, amen.