

Lost Without Excuse **Romans 10:14-21**

Theme: The Gospel, God and Israel

Thesis: Without hearing the truth of the Gospel, people cannot come to Christ by faith.

Introduction:

- Observation: A lot of Jews do not believe in Christ today.
- Dilemma: God promised salvation to the Jewish nation.
- Question: Has God gone back on His word and failed the Jews?
- Answers: God's word has not failed (9:6)
 - 1) First, God did not promise salvation to every single Jew (9:6b-29). A remnant was chosen apart from heredity and works to be saved. Others were passed over by God. Both serve a purpose for God. For those chosen - they demonstrate God's love, grace and mercy. For those passed over - they demonstrate God's holiness, justice and wrath.
 - 2) Second, Israel failed to respond properly to Jesus Christ and the Gospel message, i.e. they did not believe (10:8-13); they chose to perform.
 - There is only one response to the Gospel – obey the command to believe! “Call on the name of the Lord...”
- Question: If the Jews are at fault for not responding properly to the Gospel message, did every Jew hear the message?
- Put bluntly: Are there any excuses for those who do not believe in Jesus Christ and the Gospel message?

1. The Conditions for believing (vv. 14-15)

Work backwards from the call...

- a. The messenger must be sent
 - b. The message must be proclaimed
 - c. The message must be heard
 - d. The message must be received with faith (belief) and...
 - e. The message must be responded to with a calling on the Lord (obedience)
- Paul quotes Is. 52:7 to show the importance of sending the Gospel message.

2. The Conditions Not Met (v. 16)

The only condition not carried out in this chain is the last one: The responsibility of the hearer to respond in obedience and faith (cf. Romans 6:17; 1:5; 16:25-26)
Paul quotes Is 53:1. Jesus quoted the same verse in John 12:38-40 – believing matched with calling!

3. The Conditions Reiterated (v. 17)

Without hearing the word which proclaims the plan of God in sending Christ, people can never have faith. People must hear the message.

4. The Removal of All Excuses (vv. 18-21)

- a. They heard the message
Quote Psalm 19:4 - just as natural revelation makes mankind without excuse (Rom. 1:20) so the sounding of the Gospel truth throughout the Jewish world makes them without excuse. Now the Gospel is penetrating even the ends of the earth as those who were once aliens (Gentiles) are being allowed to enter the

family, people of God.

b. They knew the plan of God

(1) Moses knew and told - Deut 32:21 – The Jonah syndrome (4:1-4); The legalist does not see himself as a sinner.

(2) Isaiah knew and told - Isaiah 65:1

Conclusion:

Paul quotes Is. 65:2 and reminds us of an important point: God has constantly been extending the Gospel-hand to the Jews (Is. 9:1-12, 17, 21; ch. 11-12)

What is a legalist?

- Anyone who sets out to establish their own righteousness through self-effort.
- Anyone who seeks to justify his lusts while still appearing to be righteous (Matt 15)

Hosea 6:1-6 quoted in Matthew 9:12; 12:1-8 – God wants to be known and loved

He sent the prophets in Matthew 21:3ff.

He condemns the legalist in Matthew 23; but cries over Jerusalem.

God has a heart of patience.