

Start Sunday now looked
(20) Now, the second major area that I want you to see in verse 14-21.

Today
First we ~~looked~~ at the nature of God's righteousness. Secondly, we come to the necessity of hearing the message. The Gospel of Jesus Christ demands a response. How shall they hear, Paul asks, if they don't have a preacher?

There are ~~four~~ *three* things that I want you to see in these verses.

(1) Number one involves method. Vs 14 and 15. This is one of the greatest texts on God's method. It really begins with vs 15. You have to work backward. The method begins with sending. You see, if no one is sent no one will hear. So, God's method of getting the Gospel to the lost begins with sending. *x Refer to you*

Do you know what the problem is in reaching the world? Churches where Christians gather and where they experience growth and the teaching of God's Word, and where they experience comfort and the security of our relationship one with another, we fail to send. We stop ~~sending~~ sending. That is where the whole ~~program~~ program starts... *Refer to Believers*

Then it goes to the matter of preaching. Those who are sent are to preach. Everybody, by the way, is to preach. Everyone is to proclaim the Gospel. Not just ministers. Everybody. *who names the name of Christ*

Then it goes to hearing. They hear what is preached.

Then it goes to believing. And then to calling upon his name. *Well,* how shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? How shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? How shall they hear without a preacher? And who shall ~~they~~ preach unless they are sent?

That is God's method.

Now, many people in this day and age believe that God has a new method. And that new method is T.V. This is God's 20th century method of getting the Gospel to the whole world.

Now, there are several misconceptions in this type of thinking.

Number one, is that the response of people to Radio and T.V. has been programmed by our little friend the computer. And it is the worst means and method to reach the world with the Gospel known by the facts we have available.

The worst and yet it is the most expensive. More money is poured into radio and T.V. And yet it is the worst method in terms of results. Praise God for the few that it reaches. But it is the worst.

God's method has never changed..

World Vision International conducted a survey throughout the ~~world~~ ^{World}. They were trying to find out what led a person to receive Jesus Christ. This survey was conducted among thousands of Christians throughout the world. And the results show that well over 90% was a person to person encounter. Some one share the Gospel with some one else.

And that is the point of this passage. How shall they hear without a preacher. And how can they preach unless they be sent.

That is still God's method. It is the only way. You see, the whole principle of Romans 10 is the principle of hearing. And the whole ~~principle~~ message of these verses are so well explained in Vs 17. "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Do you know that right now, no matter what is happening in your life, right now by hearing God's Word you can experience salvation. You can believe that what you hear is the truth. And God says in Vs 13 that "whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. That is tremendous.

(2D) God's method has not changed. ^{Now,} and the responses we see according to Vs 16-18 does vary. Did you notice that? Vs 16, "they did not all heed the glad tidings". Everybody who hears the Gospel does not obey it.

Now, notice Vs 18 "But I say, surely they have never heard, have they?" Have they not heard? is the question. Yes, indeed they have. If this is God's method, indeed they have: "~~the~~ ^{their} voice has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."

Who is he talking about? Is he talking about the Apostles? Some say that the Apostles took the message to everyone....No!!! Listen, the Apostles didn't cover the whole world. That is not the purpose of this text.

This is a quote from Psalms 19 where it says that the heavens declared the glory of God. And the expanse of the heavens is declaring the work of His hands. And his voice went throughout the whole earth.

The point is that the revelation of God in the universe has been God's way of announcing to the ~~world~~ world that He is alive and real.

This take us back to Romans chapter 1 verse 20 where it says that 'his invisible attributes, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen by the things that are made.'

SO, The point is, which should give you encouragement in your sermons
~~to that~~ Yes, all people have heard in the knowledge of the universe. And all men know that there is a God and that he exists.

(3D) The third thing that I want you to see in understanding the necessity of hearing the message is the ~~purpose~~ ^{purpose} of God towards Israel. There are three things that I want you to see.

(1E) In Vs 19, Paul tells us that there was a prediction made at the time of Moses about God's method in dealing with Israel. ~~It~~ Vs 19.."But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? At the first Moses says, I will make you jealous by that which is not a nation, by a nation without understanding will I anger you."

God choose Gentiles. Gentiles have been received to anger the nation of Israel to jealousy, according to Paul.

(2E) Secondly, according to Vs 20 the plan of God is very clear. Isaiah said: "I was found by those ~~to~~ sought me not, I became manifest to those who did not ask for me."

Here Israel had been constantly seeking God but never finding him. And now God saves the people who are not even seeking him.

You see, that is how much God loves you. It is not the question of men seeking after God. The Gospel is that God is seeking man. You see, God can save people who at first don't even care about him. He just takes that person and saves him. And many times the person is not even aware that God is seeking him. Because God is after you, my friend.

(3E) Then according to Vs 21, we see the patience of God involved in this plan he had towards Israel and all men. When he said, "all the day long I have stretched out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people."

The word "disobedient" basically means "not pursued." They are hearing it but they are not pursued.

The word "obstinate" means to "speak against." They are not only not pursued of the Gospel by faith, but they are actually speaking against it and attacking it.

You would think that the Lord would respond with a little judgement. Oh, no, instead of judgement, ^{vs 21} the ~~Bible~~ says that "all day long he stands with out stretched hands."

He is a patient and long suffering God to people who refuse to listen and to those who speak against His truth, to those who are disobedient and obstinate. And God's response is love. He loves you. And he is seeking you. And he desires that none should be lost. That is the story of the gospel. I hope and pray that you will respond.

Let us close with prayer