

Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation

54- “God, Jesus, You, Lost Sinners”

Romans 10:5-17

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Oct. 18, 2015

How is it that anyone’s ever going to hear this good news and have an opportunity to either REJECT or ACCEPT this free offer of the Gospel or salvation in Jesus Christ?’

God tells us the primary way He intends to communicate this Good News to other lost sinners in **Romans 10:5-17**.

I. This Free Offer of the Gospel is through Faith Alone in what Christ Alone has Already Done for Us

You cannot work for this! You have to receive it from God based on what His Son has done!

II. This Free Offer of the Gospel is for Every Person – without Distinction

Romans 10:12-13 “For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For whoever calls upon the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

That’s such good news! In life there’s almost always some distinctions being made or some fine print that excludes somebody for some reason, but not the good news of the Gospel.

He’s Lord over all – there’s no one outside of His authority and dominion! He’s rich to all who call upon His name – trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation!

When you call out to God for salvation He pours out the unending riches of grace in Christ Jesus on you! There’s no expiration date or short shelf-life on this!

God tells us there is no distinction regarding the free offer of the Gospel, so we don’t have to pick and choose who we think might respond well to it. Many of us are guilty of self-filtering or arguing our way out of talking to someone about the Gospel.

The Bible itself doesn’t give us a family photo album of people that all look the same. There’s no profile of the kind of people we’re looking for to share the Gospel with.

III. God Designed that this Free Offer of the Gospel Should be Spread by Us to Real People, Using Real Words, in a Real World

Romans 10:14-15 “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 is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!’”

The Greek word ‘preach’ is the word ‘kerusso’ that means to proclaim or to publish.

This passage was meant to challenge and stir every Christian to share the Gospel with other's around us! Many of us face hurdles in doing that, with one of the biggest being fear.

A. Don't be Afraid of People's Response to the Gospel

Don't take it as a personal rejection if they reject this free offer. They're not rejecting you. They're rejecting God, His Son and His message!

People rejecting this message is not a new thing in our day!

Romans 10:16 "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our report?'"

Paul quotes from Isaiah who recognized the same problem 600 years before Jesus ever came! Isaiah 53 is the most detailed explanation of the Gospel in all the Old Testament, yet it begins by recognizing there will be many who reject this message!

Look at it in **Isaiah 52:13 – 53:11**.

B. Don't Think Their First Response is Their Last Word on the Gospel

Very few people come to Christ the first time someone shares the Gospel with them!

Don't assume that a person's initial rejection or negative response is going to be their last word on this! Long after you walk away God is still working especially if you used His Word, because His Word does not return unto Him void!

I Peter 2:12 "Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation"

First they may speak against you as an evil-doer, but then later they glorify God because of those very deeds. You're going have to trust and rest in God during the interim that can make you feel awkward and uneasy.

You're going to have to be willing to be misunderstood, be ill thought of, mocked and marginalized by some people that may in fact come back and thank you later!

C. Step Up to Using Words

It's not enough to just live like Jesus in front of everybody. That's a great start, but Jesus Himself used words. Your Christ-like life may get someone's attention, but it's not likely they'll attribute it to Jesus unless you say so!

As you use your words make sure that they are filled with God's Words! Quote the Bible. Tell people what the Bible says, what God says, not just what you think.

Romans 10:17 "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

If salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ, how do people get that faith? Through hearing God's Word! People on their own do not have faith. It has to grow and God has to give it to them.

D. Don't Think You're Ever Going to Speak to People about God Until You First Speak to God about People

If you want to have the courage to speak to people about Jesus and the Gospel you need to start praying for people by name and asking God to give you His heart, because prayer paves the way for courage in speaking to other people.

If you're not in the habit of praying for lost people by name, it's safe to say you're not in the habit of speaking to lost people about the Gospel!

Colossians 4:2-5 "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."

E. Don't Fall into the Trap of Thinking that People Today are So Secular and So Disinterested that No One's Ever Going to Believe

It is a mistake to look around and assume that every unbeliever is in lockstep with the spirit of our age.

Trials and suffering shake people and cause them to ask some of the most important questions about life and what really matters!

Don't forget that people get saved one at a time as unique individuals and God is in the habit of snatching people out of the culture and unto Himself!

At any given moment, God is at work in 10,000 ways to preparing them to hear the gospel. He does all the heavy lifting regarding the heart preparation, but we have to speak the words of the Gospel.

You're a Christian today because someone cared enough to bring the Gospel to you! Be unashamed! Live for Jesus. Love people and speak the life-changing words of the Gospel!