

## THE PRIORITY OF PREACHING – ROMANS 10:13-21

### THE BOOK OF ROMANS #19

Today we finish up this 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans by studying a subject that is very closely linked to salvation – preaching. We will see that God's preferred mode of exposing His plan of salvation is preaching. People can certainly get saved by reading the Bible alone but it appears as if God desires to use preaching as His main tool of proclaiming salvation. We begin today with:

1. **The call of salvation – Romans 10:13 -.** We saw this verse last week and we begin with it this week as it leads into our subject of preaching. I see two truths in this verse. The first is the universality of the invitation of salvation – “whosoever”. That tells me that salvation is available to “whosoever” not just a group of people that God has sovereignly chosen without conditions. The second truth is the mode of salvation – “call”. A person must call on the Lord to save them if they want salvation. That tells us at least 2 things. The first of which is that salvation is based on an individual's free will to call and that the sacrifice of Jesus only covers those who do call – **1 Tim. 4:10 -**. There are many people who believe that since Jesus paid the debt then everyone has forgiveness. Not so; salvation must be appropriated by a call.
2. **The tool of preaching – vs. 14-15 -.** In these verses, Paul breaks down the process by which most are saved. In verse 15 we see that God calls and sends a preacher. A preacher can be anyone who preaches the message of salvation to another. In our day, we consider a preacher to be pastor or an evangelist. When the preacher proclaims the Gospel, there are others who “hear” the Gospel. At this point, that person is responsible for the truth that they have heard. If God sends a preacher and a person hears the Gospel, that person has no excuse for not getting saved. God will hold them accountable as soon as they hear the truth. When a person hears, they must decide if they believe. Most today do not get saved because they do not believe the Gospel. That is their choice and a decision they will have to live with for all eternity. Once belief is established, a call must be made. Calling requires belief and repentance. There will be untold multitudes in hell that believe but never called. If a person does not go through this process, they cannot be saved. Paul makes this truth clear in vs. 17 -.

- 3. The sad fact of humanity's response to the Gospel – vs. 16 -.** Despite the clarity of the Gospel, Paul admits that most will not obey the Gospel. The idea of obeying again places a responsibility on man. Man is responsible to obey his end of salvation. God provided the sacrifice, sent the messenger to relay the message and people are then responsible to obey the Gospel; that is if they want to go to heaven. The use of the question “who hath believed our report” is a quote from Isaiah as has the idea of very few who actually respond to God's message. It has always been true but never more so in our day – very few respond to the Gospel. Understand this – that will never be God's fault.
- 4. The extent of the Gospel message – vs. 18-21.** In the upcoming verses, Paul will make it clear that the Gospel message has been proclaimed to the whole of humanity; both Jew and Gentile. The idea again is that no one has an excuse for not obeying the Gospel and being born again. Paul will use OT verses to support his teaching (Ps. 19:4, Deut. 32:21 and Isa. 65:1-2) – vs. 18-21 -. It is clear that all of humanity has heard and still does hear the Gospel. We find in Romans 1 that people have always known God and His truth but have chosen to suppress the truth. False religious teachings can be exposed by simply checking out those teachings against the Word of God. It's not God's fault when people just believe whatever they have been taught without first seeing if those teachings line up with the Bible. Denominations that have gone apostate still know what the Gospel is even if they no longer teach it. People with no religious affiliation have a Creation that demands a Creator and as a result a responsibility to find out what the Creator demands. Doing nothing or believing in the fairy tale of evolution is no excuse. There are multitudes of people who have “their own beliefs”. It is not God's fault if people want to believe that their beliefs are somehow valid without any evidence to support those beliefs. It is not God's fault if people reject God's truth for their own beliefs. It is not God's fault if people choose to reinvent God into their own liking. The Bible defines God as much as God can define Himself in words. If people choose to mold Him into something else, that is not God's fault. All people are responsible to obey the Gospel. God has clearly done His part and man must do his.