

The Book of Romans - Part 35

Thank you for joining me once again for "It's a Good Life." Today we are continuing our study in the book of Romans and we're going to pick up with Romans chapter 10 and verse 16.

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Or you can write to me, Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 37431. Write to me and share with me your prayer requests and I'll be glad to pray with you that God would answer your requests. Or you can email me from the Website.

Well, today as we look in Romans chapter 10, we left off at verse 16, but we're going to pick up in verse 15 that says your feet are shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace. This is speaking, of course, to Christians, that they are to be ready to give an answer to those who would ask them: "How do you know you're on your way to Heaven?" We are to have our feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace. In other words, we are to be familiar with the Word of God.

Also, when we think of this, we can give a testimony as to how we got saved, what happened to us when we gave our life, our heart, to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:16 says, *But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?* People today have not followed the instructions of the Gospel. Romans 10:16 in the first part says that they have not all obeyed the Gospel, that everybody is not saved. It makes no difference who you

are, whether you're a Baptist, a Presbyterian, a Pentecostal, or what have you, it doesn't save you. What saves a person is by obeying the Gospel, and that Gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ came into the world to seek and to save those who were lost. You must realize that you are lost without Jesus Christ. You need to receive Jesus as your Savior in order to be obeying the Gospel. The Gospel is the good news that Jesus came to save and that He will save those who will call upon Him and ask Him into their hearts. Everybody is not following the instruction of the Gospel, according to Romans 10 and the first part of verse 16.

And then we see the rest of that verse that says we know everyone has not followed the instruction of the Gospel because of what Isaiah said in Isaiah 53:1. It says there: *Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?* Paul quotes Isaiah here in verse 16. He says, *Who hath believed our report?*

Well, once again, the arm of the Lord has been revealed to the people of this world. In Romans 10:17, it says, *So then...* How do people obey the Gospel? How do people know that the Gospel has been revealed, and so forth? It says, *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* So we can conclude by what has been said that the way faith comes to a person is by being made aware of faith through God's Word. It's by God's Word that a person is saved. Romans 10:18 goes on to say, *But I say, "Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.*

Well, verse 16 says all have not believed, but didn't they hear? According to Romans 10:18, the question was asked, "Didn't they all hear it?" And Paul goes on to say, yes, truly, without a doubt, God has been proclaimed everywhere

in the world. Romans 10:18 talks about this and Romans 1:20 says, *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*

Psalm 19:1 says, *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handy-work.* Psalm 19:4 says, *Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun.* No one is without excuse.

You say, "Well, what about people who have never read God's Word?" We see God all around us. We see God's Word that became visible. We see the creation of God, His handiwork. We see God in everything in this world. So, the Bible says people are without excuse. That is God's Word, as well as His written Word. And we know that Jesus is the Living Word of God because it says the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

So people are without excuse when they say, "Well, you know, I don't know about God." That is not true. Every person in this world who has ever lived and who is living now and who will live in the future, these people are without excuse if they have never trusted Christ as Savior.

Well, now we look in Romans 10:19 and we see here in verses 19-21 that Israel's neglect and the Gentiles' reception are foreseen by the Scriptures. Romans 10:19 says, *But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.*

Paul goes on to explain to us that there is no person without excuse in this world. The Jewish people and the Gentile people... the Gentiles are anyone who is not a Jew. Paul says in verse 19, "Therefore, I ask, didn't Israel know?" And he goes on to say, "Moses said, because of Israel provoking God to jealousy

with that which is not God, he would provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a people and fools in their sight. In doing so, it would extremely anger the Jewish people. The Jewish people would be angered because God has grafted in the Gentile people. Those people who are not Jewish people have been grafted in, given the opportunity to know Jesus Christ as personal Savior. The Jewish people rejected Him as Messiah, so God says, "Okay, you're a stiff-necked people so I'm going to graft in people who are not a people" ... that is, not a people according to the Jews. The Jewish people looked upon the Gentile people as dogs throughout history, as unfit for the kingdom of God. But God says, because of their stiff-necked rebellion against Him, the Jewish people would see and understand eventually that God has grafted in everyone in this world who wants to be saved.

Deuteronomy 32:21 says, *They have moved me to jealousy... That's talking about God. God says, They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation,* "foolish nation" meaning a Gentile people. Of course, Paul is quoting this verse, Deuteronomy 32:21.

The Israelites chose another God; He would choose another people. But the Jewish people are God's people, and, once again, by studying the Word of God, we know that we are to pray for the Jewish nation; we are to uphold them; we are to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. And God gave a promise way back, hundreds of years ago that said those people who bless Israel would be blessed, so God has not said, "Okay, I'm finished with you, Israel." God has simply said, "I'm grafting in people who have not been grafted in before. They have not been recognized by you." And by doing that, God is provoking Israel to jealousy. In other words, He

is trying to bring them to their senses. God has not forsaken His people.

Romans 10:20-21 say this: *²⁰But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. ²¹But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.*

God says, "I've given the Israelite people things that they needed to know in order to come to me and serve me, but they did not serve me. They did not do what I asked them to do." Therefore, it says in Romans 10:20 that God *was made manifest unto them that asked not after me...* in other words, did not ask after God. And that's the Gentile people, anyone who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, anyone who is willing to listen. Isaiah said boldly in Isaiah 65:1-2: *I am sought of them that asked not for me...* This is Paul once again quoting Isaiah 65:1-2 as we see him quoting that in Romans 10:20-21. The words "made manifest," means revealed. God has been revealed to Israel. God has been revealed to the Gentile nations now. The Gentiles did not seek after the God, but God sought them and found them.

And Romans 9:30 talks about this, and also we see in Luke 19:10; it says, *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.* Romans 9:30 says, *What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.*

Everyone is saved the same way. We're saved by God through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, and this is what Paul is trying to get across to the Jewish people and to the people who are saved. As he is writing to saved people, he's reminding people how they got saved and

their duties as saved people. And we're going to see that in just a few lessons here as we continue on.

Now, as we continue on and as we look in chapter 11, there are objectives in studying this chapter. First, it's to understand how God has not totally rejected His people. We see in chapter 10 how that God says, "Okay, you didn't listen so therefore I'm going to graft in other people." But in this chapter, we're going to see how God has not totally rejected the people of Israel. And secondly, we're going to see the possibility for apostasy for us today. And third, is to understand Paul's summary conclusion for this section of Scripture, chapters 9-11.

You know, God loves you today and God loves each one of us. And God wants everyone to know that they can be saved the same way that everyone else is saved, and that is through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Have you received Him as your Savior? Do you realize that you're lost without Him? There is a devil's hell waiting for those people who reject Jesus Christ, but there's a Heaven waiting for those who receive Him. God loves you and He wants you to receive Jesus, His Son, as your Savior.

You could pray something like this: "Lord, come into my heart. I know I can't save myself and I'm trusting you to save me. I believe Your Word. Please take me to Heaven when it's time for me to go." Now, if you ask Jesus into your heart, God will save you and make sure that you are on your way to Heaven.

Well, it's been good being with you today and until the next time when you hear me say, "It is a good life," may the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.