

YOU CAN KNOW FOR SURE THAT YOU
ARE GOING TO HEAVEN!
Romans 10

... 21 verses we need to cover as quickly as possible. Paul is writing to his people, the Jews. He loves them with all of his heart. They think he's an arch-enemy because he's told them they cannot be saved, by the law of Moses. But not true. He loves them with all of his heart. He just knows from his own experience and the revelation of Jesus that his people cannot be saved. Because he was trying to be saved and was lost and finally he was saved. So he begins this chapter by saying

V. 1 (read) isn't that beautiful? Is your desire and your prayer for certain people is that they might be saved? Jes. says 'what things soever ye desire, when you pray, believe that you have already received them and they shall be granted unto you!' One of the most important things in prayer is 'desire'!! Not much need of my praying unless I desire, to have my prayers answered. Paul is filled with desire and he prays to God for his people that they might be saved. This wonderful word 'saved'. We have to talk about it! Why? Because men are lost. If Jews ~~xxx~~ or Gentiles are lost, we have to talk about being saved.

Let me encourage you, if you're a S.S. teacher, not to assume that people are saved, necessarily. Jack Dozier and I were in a home Wednesday night and we just assumed that the family we were visiting were saved. But when we asked them the first question in Evangelism, the head of the home said 'I really am not sure'. And we thought we were gonna be able to spend a five or ten minute visit, but we found ourselves here in great need. Listen, when people are lost; they need to be saved and you and I, as Xtns, need to be concerned and not assume that people are saved. This is a very threatening word for some people!

You go a liberal church and you talk about being saved, man people don't know what you're talking about. They don't want to hear that. I've talked about being saved - I remember I talked about being saved when I was a student at Duke Univ. and a man came to my room and said 'I want to talk to you. What in the world do you mean about being saved?' and he was a preacher. A preacher. Ray Stedman tells the very funny story: he said he was sitting on a plane one day

and he said a man came up to him and he said 'is this seat saved?' And he said 'no, but I am! Sit down!' And he said that man promptly moved on and took a seat in another section of the plane. It's wonderful - this thing of being saved! And if a person is not saved, he needs to be saved and our message must always tell the people HOW to be saved. In our day, the church has gone so far out here, with all the frills until often, we forget the most important thing!

In my preaching, in your teaching, in our witness, we need to be conscious of the fact that so many are lost and we need to be sharing the Gospel with people **how** to be saved! This was Paul's utmost concern. Now in V. 2 & 3, he tells us why they needed to be saved.

V. 2 (read) 'I bear them record (or I simply witness or testify to the fact) that they have a zeal of God'. The word 'zeal' is 'burning'. ~~XXXX~~ And they did! No people has been more zealous for God and what they considered 'duty' that comes - that is due God - than Jews. Just think about living under a religion where you had six hundred and thirteen specific commandments that you are to keep. Well, that was the situation with the Orthodox Jews. Man, they were absolutely filled with zeal for God - or attending to religious duties which they thought was Godliness and would justify them before God. So Paul goes on to say 'but not according to knowledge' or not really based on true knowledge. They knew 'ABOUT' God but they really did not know God and they did not know the ways of God and the way to be righteous and the way to be justified!

V. 3 (read) now Paul is not saying they're ignorant - he's one of them. That they're not generally ignorant - Jews are not generally ignorant. They are tremendously intelligent; they show this in business. They're much more intelligent than Gentiles, in many, many areas. The highest percentage of Nobel Prize winners have been Jews. I preached a sermon one time on 'Israel, the Miracle Nation'. I was amazed at what I had discovered. It is incredible what they have done in the realm of science, alone. If suddenly, all Jewish discovery, were removed from science, there would be any number of things, like polio vaccine, that we wouldn't have. Many, many wonderful discoveries have been made by the Jews and they have been the architect of the most remarkable nation in modern times!

Man, it's a thrill to go to Israel. You've never seen anything like it! They've just taken a desert and turned it into a garden. A garden, until they're exporting much of the fruit we eat right here in Ft. Smith - comes from Little Israel. If we had the productivity and the technology, according to our size, that Israel has, we'd be ten times as strong as a nation. It's incredible!

What he's saying is 'they're ignorant of God's righteousness - of God's kind of righteousness. That is, it comes by faith. And then he spells it out: 'and going about to establish their own righteousness (or to set up their own righteousness) he says their error is that they're trying to set up their own righteousness by the works. By keeping these sixteen hundred and thirteen rules. 'They have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God'. And this is always true. This is not just true of Jews. It's true of many, many Gentiles tonight, who are trying to establish their own righteousness. You see, any system of religion by works, which is taught in many denominations, is just what we do: just by keeping the commandments, and being decent!

When that is taught, of course, that is the same errors that the Jews made. They were setting up their own righteousness and therefore, were not submitting to the righteousness of God. What is the righteousness of God? Well, there have been all kinds of definitions given of it, but I don't think we need to complicate it. It's not a thing in the world but JC. 11 Cor. 5: 21 (read) and 1 Cor. 1: 30 (-read) there is not righteousness outside of Jes. And the way we receive is simply by faith. By trusting in Jes. and nothing else. Not setting up another system of religion; not even saying that you have to trust Christ plus tithe.

Now if you're truly saved and understand the Bible, there won't be any trouble for you to tithe at all. Or to be baptized or to join a church but that doesn't save you. And that's not a part of the righteousness. The righteousness is in Jes. and it comes to us by repentance and faith. And the Jews, of course, had not submitted themselves to righteousness. Remember Rom. 4: 5? Turn back to it and we see it's stated very clearly here, in Rom. 4: 5 (read) 'worketh not' (that's the person who's establishing his own righteousness) 'but who believeth on Him that

justifieth the ungodly' (see, that's submitting to the righteousness of God in Christ) 'his faith is counted (or imputed to him) for righteousness'. Is there possibly someone here tonight who is trying to earn your righteousness? Trying to get into Heaven by what you can do?

And the way it worked out in ^{most} ~~XXXX~~ peoples lives - they ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ would not say that alone but they would say 'Christ PLUS my works'. See? It's Christ PLUS my morality. Christ PLUS my baptism. Christ PLUS my tithing. Christ PLUS! But it isn't that! If you add ANYTHING to Christ, you don't have Christ. We have to trust Him and Him alone, if we are going to be saved. And the Jews simply were not doing that. They were trying to establish another form of righteousness and, therefore, they were not submitting. So that's the reason Paul says 'to him that worketh not'. And I would say if there's one person here tonight who's working to be saved: QUIT it, Quit it, Quit it - and come to Christ. Then when you come to Christ, of course, you will, automatically, work. Eph. 2: 8, 9 says (read) . Then in V. 10, it says (read). But notice we are first saved by Grace and THEN - then we're in a position to work for Christ.

But you NEVER work in order to be saved. You work AFTER you are saved but never before.

V. 4 (read) 'For Christ (notice, he says 'Christ' and he's writing to Jews) that's 'Christos' and means 'the anointed One (and that's the Messiah). For the Messiah is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth'. Notice 'end' is a noun. It's the Greek word 'tellos'. It doesn't say Christ ended the law. Christ did not end the law. Christ fulfilled the law! He gave meaning to the law. I've heard people say 'well, you know Christ came and He repealed the Ten Commandments'. Oh, no, He did not do that at all. The Ten Commandments are for us more than they were for Jews, if anything!

A Xtn, a real Xtn, will keep the Ten Commandments in the power of the Holy Ghost. Why my morality is certainly not below that of a Jew at all. Now he abolished the Ceremonial parts of the law and the ritual of sacrifice, but the moral law, He simply fulfilled that and He fulfilled the ceremonial law by the sacrifice of His own body and the shedding of His own blood. But here it says that Christ is the 'tellos' or the 'goal' of the law. What was the goal of the law

Righteousness! And in the law you see the righteous requirements of God. In the Ten Commandments, you see the composite picture of God. That's what you see in the Ten Commandments. Total Holiness; total morality!

Well Jes. embodied this in His person. Jes. kept the Ten Commandments - every one of them. Every one of them perfectly. And in Jes., we have a complete fulfillment of the purpose of the law and that was perfect righteousness and that's in Jes. You say 'well, I can never be perfectly righteous'. No, you can't! And that's the reason we need Jes and that's the only way in the world that I can stand before God tonight, is stand in the righteousness of Jes. You say 'but wait a moment, does not God regenerate the life?' He does. 'Does not God change a life?' He certainly does change a life! But He does not change a life to perfection that it could ever stand before God because remember one sin can keep you out of Heaven.

Unless we're clothed in the righteousness of Jes. Not one sin can enter Heaven, which means that we must have the perfect righteousness of God applied to our heart, imputed to ~~XXX~~ us and God looks at that righteousness and that gets us into Heaven and that's the only way in the world we will ever get into Heaven. We get on down and we're gonna see that we're gonna have to make Him Lord of our lives, which changes our lives indeed. But we are not saved by that change. We are not saved by the morality that even comes out of regeneration and justification. My life does not save me.

I may pray faithfully, be a soul winner, be right related to the church and other people, but that never saves me. I'm saved from the beginning because of my trust in the righteousness of Jes. So many people are confused on this and it's sad. All right, now

V. 5 (read) that is, a works type of righteousness. Moses certainly in the law described the man who would be justified by the law that that is his lifestyle and he's got to live by these rules and by these regulations, in order to be justified. You see, the law says that you do and live. The Gospel is just the opposite. The Gospel says you live and do! The law, you see, was perfect, but it said to man in his flesh 'now here's the rules! here's the regulations and

before you can life, you've got to do them' and man can't - man could not do this! The Gospel is just the opposite, it says 'you've got the final life in Jes. and then you can do!' You can't do until you find the life and this is where so many people get hanged up and say 'well, I don't know if I can hold out or not'. Well, I can tell you right now, you can't hold out and Bill Bennett cannot hold out, unless the Grace of God is upon us, you and I cannot hold out.

I could not hold out one twenty-four hours except for the Grace of God and even with Gods Grace, I will fail and you will fail and that's the reason we have to have His righteousness. Clothed in His righteousness. But listen, once Jes. enters in me, once the H. Ghost comes into my heart, through the New Birth, and I'm resting in His righteousness, my life is changed. My outlook is changed. I want to pray; I want to win souls; I love the church; I love the people of God; I love Jes. I'm changed, I'm changed! I'm changed, but only after Jes. comes into my life.

Somebody here tonight - you're wondering if I could really do this. Well, listen, you just got it all out of order. Come to Jes. Come to Jes. and then you will have a power to be a new person. You're trying to be a new person, before you come to Jes. Oh, the tricks that satan plays on us. But notice

V. 6 (read) 'which is of faith (or that which is based on faith) speaks (or says it like this) 'say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above) now he's quoting Moses from Deut. 30. You read Deut. 30: 11-14 (read) you will notice Moses said it like this: Who shall ascend into Heaven (that is, to bring the law down from above). But Paul takes this passage and puts Christ in here where the 'Law' was. Why? BEcause Christ has fulfilled the Law. As I said there, in explanation of 10: 4. So Paul is doing no violence to Scrip. He is the fulfillment of the Law and he says 'the righteousness, which is based on Faith, asks you a question: who can go up to Heaven ~~xxx~~ (that is: to bring Christ down from above?). And, of course the answer is 'no one can go up to Heaven to bring Christ down, just as no one could go up to Heaven to bring the Law down'.

God gave the Law to Moses and man would never have had it if God hadn't given it. You and I would never have the gift of Jes., unless God had brought Him to this world in the incarnation through the virgin birth. No man can bring Him down from Heaven. God has already done it though, through the wonders of His Grace. In

V7 (read) who could go down into that grave and resurrect Christ? Nobody would resurrect Him except God the Father. God the Father has done this for you and me. He brought Him down to earth. God in the flesh. He let Him die but He didn't let Him stay there; He brought Him back into life. So it says in

V. 8 (read) What does it say? That is, the faith that is based on righteousness? The word is nigh thee (that is, the saving word of faith is near thee, he says to these Jews) even in thy mouth and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach'. He's saying that in your very mouth and in your very heart is the word of faith, which will bring to you salvation. But how was the word of faith that brings salvation in the heart or in the mouth of the Jews? Do you realize that every Jew memorized great sections of the O. T.? They went to the Synagogue. There are very few Gentiles that ever come near this!

I don't understand why this is, but most Gentiles don't ~~XXXX~~ feel that they need to memorize the Bible. But not the Jews. Why their whole life was wrapped up in the Scrip. and they quoted the Scrip. - it was in their mouth. It was in their mouth! You read the 6th Chapter of Deut. - what we call the 'shamah' and God commands that in the home that the Word of God be written on the clothing, over the doorpost, on the walls. When you go to bed, you talk about it; when you get up, you talk about it. When you take a walk in the garden, you're talking about it. That's what Paul is talking about. He says 'why, goodness, you have the saving Word of God. You memorized it, it's in your mouth; you talk about it day and night, it's so very near you'. Well, how could that be?

Because that law is talking about Jes. That law that they were quoting all the time was pointing to the righteousness of Jes. If they'd have just opened their hearts to it, they

would have, indeed, every one of them, would have been saved. What is that word of Faith? It's in

V. 9 (read) notice, the Lord, Jes.? If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord, Jesus. This word 'Lord' is translated or the word 'Jehovah' in the O. T. is translated "Lord", in the N. T. In other words, Jes. is Jehovah in the flesh! Jes. of Nazareth is Jehovah in the flesh! And Paul says to these Jews 'if you'll confess Jes. as your Lord' - not isn't this interesting? That's the FIRST THING:

1. You must confess Jes. as your Lord. That He is Jehovah. Man, this is strong teaching for a Jew. But it could not be less than this.

2. And believe in thine heart that God has raised Him from the dead. You

3. You will be saved. Now the topic announced in the paper and on the billboard out here is: 'How You Can Know For Sure You're Going to Heaven'. Here it is. Anybody here tonight that's not saved? Listen, you will be saved if you, before God, will bring your life under the Lordship of Jes. and if you will believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead and call upon Him with this belief - you WILL BE SAVED! And you can know you are saved - absolutely! And you know, I do not know of a greater way in the world to be saved!

I remember just several years ago, in our church, the Lord greatly impressed upon my heart, to keep this before the church, for several months and we saw hundreds of people walk the aisles, many of them church members, who had never acknowledged Jesus as Lord and had never been saved, who were saved. Sometimes, the invitation would go to 1:30 and 2:00 and I was just preaching this very message here and the invitation would always be 'have YOU acknowledged Jes. as Lord? Have you believed in your heart? And so many came during those days. That will happen again. We're on the verge of that. It will happen again. You will see this in the church!

Have you done this? You see, we're not saved by an easy believeism. We're not saved by just coming down and saying 'I believe in Christ'. In the Scrip., we're never told to believe in

Jes. as Savior. You say 'but He is the Savior'. Indeed, He is. You know how many times the word 'Savior' appears in the N. T.? Twenty four times. You know how many times the word 'Lord' appears? Four hundred and thirty four times. Now the point is that He will save us when we acknowledge His authority in our lives. He cannot save us until we acknowledge that He is Lord. JC cannot save me ~~xxx~~ apart from His control of my life and His authority over me. Many people who say they are saved are not saved at all. They show that by their lives.

They're NEVER broken their will and brought themselves under the authority of Jes. and that's one of the problems we face today. That's the greatest explanation for the great falling away of church members is that they, when they were saved, were not really saved. They made an intellectual decision but they didn't really bow before the authority of God, Jehovah God in JC. Now you say 'well, he says if you confess with your mouth that Jes. is your Lord and then believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you'll be saved'. You say 'Pauls got it backwards'. We first believe in our hearts and then we outwardly confess. Well, exactly, and Paul, in the next verse, he puts it in that order.

V. 10 (read) man believeth unto his justification. When he believes with the heart. Now what does it mean to believe with the heart? Well, you know you could believe with the head. You could believe intellectually everything I've said tonight but that would not save you. We must believe with the total man. It must be a total commitment. The heart here represents the total person. With no reservations. It must be the whole heart and we believe with the heart and then, we confess with our mouth. Is there any salvation where there is no confession? Well, you don't have any comfort in - according to the N. T.

A person who has experienced Christ in his life wants to confess it. Wants to confess it openly with the mouth. When a person is saved, he should confess it immediately to the wife or husband or the soul-winner or whoever it is - but not stop there. Do what some people are doing here today - come right down the aisle and say with your mouth to the people 'I have been saved. I have received Christ'. Jes. said 'if we confess Him before men (Matt. 10: 31) He will confess us before the Father which is in Heaven'. And you take a person that's really

confessing the Lord before men, you know what the Father does? In Heaven? Jes. turns to the Father in Heaven and says 'there is a child of Mine; he's confessing Me before men and I'm just so proud of him! and when that happens, something happens in our soul. It nails it down in our hearts.

Then, of course, Jes. gave us baptism, that we might confess in the most dramatic way: salvation. Salvation in water! To see with our very eyes that He died and was buried and rose again and we died and we were buried and we rose again. He gave the Ordinances to the church that we might visualize - that we might see with our own eyes, the miracle of Salvation, in our own lives. Anybody who understands this will not argue about being baptized. It's not optional; it doesn't say but it's not optional at all to those who would be obedient, in the Lord and that is the ultimate confession.

Then, with our lives. Notice he says that we must confess that Jes. is our Lord. It's not just an intellectual formula but it's a reality of the submission to Jes. and the world understands this. If I say I'm a Xtn, the world expects something out of me. You say you're a Xtn, the world expects something out of you. You say you're a member of FBC, because this church has a reputation. It's loved and hated because it stands for the Gospel. You be a member of this church and people see you out over this city and they say 'well, listen, you're supposed, really, your life is supposed to be changed'. It is not that way with the world. It is not that way with the world! Suppose a preacher robbed - say - a widow. Did you know that's newsworthy and it'd get in the paper in the morning?

'Local Pastor Robs a Widow'. And everybody in this town would read it. But suppose it was a bartender - or just a lost man that robbed a widow, it would be over on the back page. You wouldn't pay much attention to that - 'well, of course, we didn't expect any better'. But not you and me! Even a lost world knows that Jes. is to be our Lord and He is to make a difference in our lives! Indeed! And while we're justified in saying by that righteousness when we really come and place our lives under the authority of Jes., let me tell you, it changes our lives. We're no longer our own. We KNOW this. We do not feel like we once did! We can't live like

like we once did; we just don't even want to live that way. Jes. is LORD and this is the supreme confession of the Xtn, that Jes. is Lord.

V. 11 (read) what does that mean? Never be disappointed? What does that mean? When we really trust Christ, we can know that we're not resting on an ill-founded foundation. We are not placing our lives on fancy. But it is reality of the greatest extent and we'll NEVER be disappointed in it. Listen, and you will NEVER be disappointed in JC. The greatest reality in this world is Jes., my friends. He is a greater reality than my own wife to me. There is nothing like Jes. No one has ever trusted Jes. with their heart that was disappointed, my friends! And it's an abomination for us to even be ashamed, though the Greek adjective here or verb does not mean really 'ashamed' but it does mean 'disappointed'. We're not disappointed in Jes.

We may be disappointed in ourselves and others, and this is where we need to keep our vision today. You don't need to get your eyes on anybody, not even your pastor, your S.S. TEacher or your deacon, but keep your eyes upon Jes. You will NEVER be disappointed. He's never disappointed anyone who really has trusted Him.

V. 12 (read) no distinction. Now there are differences in Jews and Greeks. You know this. There's difference in cultural background, physical features but that's not what this is talking about. Paul has already established in the third chapter that there is no distinction between mankind, as far as his being a sinner, unable to save himself and standing in need of the righteousness that comes by faith. Here he's saying 'there's no distinction in Jews and Gentiles, in the way that they are saved.' There is none whatsoever! Listen, some have taught the theory that the Jews were gonna be saved in the Millennium by the re-offering of the sacrifices in the Temple. Now ~~XXX~~ friends, there's not a word of truth in that!

There has been but one plan of salvation from eternal ages and that is through the blood of the crucified One. Before the cross, they were looking forward to this blood and back - we look back to it. There will be Jews, indeed saved in the time of the Millennium and they will

be saved exactly like you and I are saved: through the blood of the crucified One and through faith in Jes. There is no other way to be saved. There is no distinction between Jew and the Greek in being saved. Notice this verse says 'for the same Lord over all is rich (that's the word 'plutocrat - rich'. God - JC is rich tonight. Rich in what? Rich in Grace that brings salvation.

Don't you worry about Jes., He can save you! He's not run out at all! He's got plenty of Grace left to save anybody here tonight! Isn't it wonderful? There is no shrinkage ever of that and if a million people were saved within the next twenty four hours, there would still be plenty of Grace in Jes. to save them! It's wonderful! But the way you need to look at it, if you're not saved, ~~is~~ there's Grace enough to save you and you can be saved! OH, YES, you can be saved! If you'll hear the Word of God. If you fail to hear it, you'll stay lost! You'll stay lost and in confusion! But anybody who hears the Word of God will be saved and that's what we need to do!

Lord

Look at the last part of this verse - Same ~~xxx~~ over all is a plutocrat (He's filthy rich) unto whom? Unto all them that call on Him! He's not rich to anybody else. He's rich to those who will appropriate and then, he quotes Joel 2: 32 in

V. 13 (read) 'for whosoever' (and you can write your name there) and here's the greatest single verse on salvation in the Scrip. 'Shall call' and that means to ask Him. You don't have to know theology and you don't have to have read a book on prayer. Anybody in the world can ask Jes. to save them. That's what I like about this. 'For whosoever shall call (and that means to ask) upon the Name (notice) of the Lord'. Doesn't say 'the Savior'. It says the Name of the Lord. What IS the Name of the Lord? It's threefold: The Lord Jesus Christ! Believe on the Lord, JC (Acts 16: 31) and you will be saved'. These are the three names. The Lord - notice, that's FIRST. That's first. We have to acknowledge that He is Lord. We have to submit to His Lordship.

Jesus - that's the word Savior. The O.T., Joshua, Jehovah saves. And then Christ. What does

that mean? Gods last word! No one is yet to come - He's already come! He's the One I promised. There'll be none other! He's already come, my friends, and he came two thousand years ago and He's gonna come the second time. The Savior has already come to this world and the real Lord has already come and He is so very close to us, in His incarnation. He's coming in the flesh and in His resurrection from the dead and in His exaltation in Glory, because He sent the H. S. and He's not way off yonder at all. He is so very close tonight to us, if we really want to be saved, and we're not saved, we don't have to go up to Heaven to get Him or go down into the earth.

Through the Word of God, we hear the message of God and you can be saved right in this service tonight. Absolutely! Don't complicate it! But then he goes on to give the process through which we DO believe and hear and can call upon the Name of the Lord. (I don't have my second overhead, Mrs. Curtis, if you can get that).

V. 14 (read) he asks a question. Well, we cannot do this! You cannot call on something that you don't believe in! But that's just one question. Then he says 'how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?' Well this is just common sense here. YOU cannot call on something that you do not believe and you cannot believe in something that you have not heard about. And how shall they hear without a preacher (or without a messenger?) See, this is Gods way of getting out this wonderful, wonderful message! Do people have to hear something and believe something to be saved? EXACTLY!

The Gospel must be preached and must be taught, not just a story, not just a man even giving His experience. This is the reason that I have felt led to teach in my preaching. If you're a teacher; if you teach a S. S. class, listen, tell your class, in the simplest way possible how to be saved. People cannot believe unless they hear the message of Christ: that He died for them, was buried and rose again. You cannot believe on an empty head. YOU can have emotional meetings and get people to come down the aisle but unless they have a content of the Gospel, there is no salvation. John Calvin said 'there is no salvation without knowledge'. Knowledge based upon the Word of God: that Jes is the only Savior and that we're lost and we've got to

call upon Him. By knowledge, he does not mean education; he means simply that saving message of God. YOU can't be saved without that knowledge. I feel sorry - so sorry - Doris and I sometimes go on vacation and we'll slip in a church - we did recently! I could not believe my ears! My heart broke as I thought about what those people had to hear. I couldn't believe it. It didn't make one bit of sense at all - no one could be saved with that sort of stuff.

It was just negation. A man ^{WAS} got up and just attacking the Government and everything - no word of God for those people. I felt so sorry for them; I felt SO sorry for them. They needed to hear a word of God so they could be saved on! And we have many people in our world who do not even know what the Gospel is, who go to church and they hear a preacher get up and rant and rave and say nothing. My, if there's ever a time for a mind to work and to tell people the Truth; that the mechanic can hear that Word; the PHD can hear it, that everybody can hear it in language that's intelligent and a man's that preaching the Word of God - it's when we preach the Gospel!

I've never understood perachers that get up and sing-song and lose their breath. My friends, that's not inspired of the H. S. The most intelligent proclamation on earth ought to be when the man of God comes to the pulpit and people can hear that and they can see it laid out and they can lay hold upon it! It's an abomination when we hear other things! When a man would use his education to mystify people and to sound smart, when they're lost and when they're dying and when they're going to hell, it's an awful sin, my friends. It's to be heard and it's to be believed and it's to have content right from the Bible! Right from the Bible! A poem won't do it! Shakespeare won't do it! The theologians won't do it! You can quote it all you want to.

I remember when God called me to preach. My mind was full of theology and I could quote the theologians day and night and I could quote the poets and I could do a lot of things. But God said 'don't do it'. God said 'don't do it. Memorize this Bible and tell the people what the Bible says' and I've done that for twenty five years. The greatest lecture on earth will not

bring faith and no one can be saved. It may sound clever and you might make some friends with people with a little wealth and you might have some honors given to you in the newspaper, but men are LOST unless they hear the saving work of God! That's what Paul is talking about here.

V. 15 (read) he says 'how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace'. We don't think of the feet being too beautiful, do we? We wouldn't think of the feet as being beautiful. But notice he says the feet of those who preach the Gospel of peace! You see, in the ancient world, every preacher and every teacher was a parapathetic (?). Now you may not understand that word and I'm gonna tell you exactly what it means. He was one who walked. There were no cars. There were no bicycles. So he had to walk. He had to walk to carry that message and Paul says 'the most beautiful thing in this world is to see the feet of a person who's carrying this saving message of Jes. Now today, it might be an automobile.

I've heard so many people in this city talk about Ann Curtis's automobile! Seeing this automobile going to homes. It ought to be said about every automobile in this membership - going to homes. Then we have to walk into the house. My, the beauty of the feet that carries the message of Jes. day and night. There is no beauty like it in all the world. The world doesn't like it and backslidden church members don't appreciate it but God says 'how beautiful are the feet of those who carry the Gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things'. PTL!

Now here's the order - Paul reverses it. He says there are five links in N. T. of Evangelism. It begins by 'Sending'. Who sends the messenger? God. The church recognizes it but God sent me here. The church called me but God sent me here. God sent you to that S. S. class. The church just gave you a privilege. God is the sender. And then we preach or teach and then there must be hearing. That's more than listening. That's more than listening. You can sit in church all your life and just listen but not hear. Who are those who hear? Those who really want to know what God is saying and ~~they~~ if they do, I will guarantee, He will speak to your inner man and change your life. He'll save you, first of all and then as a Xtn, you will hear God speak in your soul.

You know the message I preached this morning? God spoke to my heart on Wednesday. I said 'God, I must have the message' and God knew I wanted the message and I said 'I will preach it if it costs me my life, Lord'. And sometimes He'll give you things that'll disturb you to death. You don't even want to talk about it. He gives me things to preach that hurts me so deeply, I don't want to talk about it. When I've got hundreds of sermons but if you want to hear Him, listen, He will speak to you and he will always speak by His Word. By His Word.

V. 16 (read) that is, the Jews. That's Isaiah 53 - the Jews simply had not believed the message of ~~Isaiah~~ Isaiah 53. But look at

V. 17 (read) they had read the O. T. Scrip.; they had listened to it but they had not heard it and here Paul says 'the way that faith comes (the faith that enables us to call upon the Lord and to believe upon the Lord) comes by hearing and hearing (not by the Word of God but the original says) by the Word of Christ!' Let me ask you: are you saved? Do you want to be saved? In order to be saved, you've got to believe the message. How does that come? By hearing the Word about Jes. Jes. died for you; Jes. was buried in the grave; Jes. arose again and Jes says 'if you will trust Me, if you will come to Me, just as you are, a lost sinner, and admit you are a sinner, with a desire to turn from those sins, you can't do it in yourself and if you will call upon Me and confess Me as Lord and believe that I am alive and that I am raised from the dead, you WILL BE SAVED!'

That comes by hearing the Word of God. Just by hearing the Word of God. Now you're a Xtn - you want more faith. You know what many Xtns think? They think that this is some sort of mystical thing; that God kinda opens up your head and pours in so much faith and they'll look at a person, who is kinda walking in victory with the Lord, and they'll say to that person 'Oh, if I could just have faith, oh, if I could just have faith!'

SIDE TWO OF TAPE

Listen, you can have as much faith as you need and as much as you want. How does it come?

Through the Word of God. By reading your Bible. If you're low on faith, with an open heart, just open the Gospel of Mark and start reading it. Read it for fifteen to thirty minutes a day, with an open heart and you'll find yourself praying. I can tell whether people are studying the Bible or not. You know how I can tell it? By the way they talk. By the way they talk. If they're complaining, you know and talking about 'well, I need to be revived and the church needs to be revived'- they're not reading their Bible. And they're defeated!

When we are reading the Bible, there is a faith in our soul and there is excitement, my friends, and we come before people and people see that excitement and that comes through the Word of God that we're hearing! Now if we close it and it begins to speak to us and we close it out and say 'oh, no; huh-huh' then we're not hearing and then the faith level stops and that's what happens to a lot of people. They hear the preacher preach and say 'well, that's not for me'. When it was meant EXACTLY for them. And often they should have walked right down the aisles, whether it was on television or not, they should have even told the pastor; they should have come to the church and testified 'God has spoken to me' - and we have got to want to hear the Word of God! We just can't sit! We've got to do what God wants us to do!

But listen if we want to hear and we read the Bible and listen to it in S. S., listen to it in preaching and our inner man is open to it, it will build our faith constantly, constantly, constantly. There would be no end to what God would do in any life in the world. Well, I must go on.

V. 18 (read) he's quoting Psalm 19: 4. Paul is saying 'well, the Jews had the revelation in nature.' Did you know there's not a person who ever lived who has not had the message of God? Not a one! And these Jews had heard the real Gospel from the first Xtn messengers, who were Jews. People say 'well, what's God gonna do about those who've never heard'? ~~XXXXX~~ There's never been a person who hasn't heard, according to Psalm 19: 4. It's spelled out in nature. And if we believe the witness of nature, God will lead us to that saving message of God. You go to Indonesia and you see 95% of the people in heathenism but they were not at one time. At

one time, according to Rom. 1, they were tremendously enlightened and they would not hear the Word of God and God gave them over to the condition they're in today. He says that it's gone out through all the world.

V. 19 (read) 'but I say did not Israel hear'? No they did not hear. They listened to a few things but they didn't hear the Word. Had they heard the Word, even of Isa. 53, they would have been saved. 'First, Moses saith I will provoke you to jealousy of them that are no people, and by a foolish nation, I will anger you'. What is that? That is the prophecy of Moses. Moses says 'I'm gonna turn to tpeople that's no people'. Who is that? The Gentiles. They didntt have any standing at one time with me at all. But I'm gonna turn to them to provoke you to jealousy. And that's exactly what God is doing right now, in this age:

He's turned the Gentiles to provoke the Jews unto jealousy and we read - we study the 11th chapter, which we'll get in next Sunday and we will find that through this provoking, that God is gonna turn to the Jews in the last days. You need to hear this.

Well, we've got to close for our time is about up. But look what he says in

V. 20 (-read)'I was found of them that sought me not' and that's the Gentiles. But God sought them and then they sought God. 'I was made manifest unto them that asked not after Me'. Comparing to the Jewish great effort to be saved and had missed it and the Gentiles, who didn't go through this at all, would have open hearts. God spoke to them; God sought them and they were saved. Man, the Jews could not believe that.

V. 21 (read) look at this: How long is 'all day long'? It's not twenty four hours. That's four thousand years at least. All day long I have stretched forth My hand unto a disobedient (and that's the word 'unpersuadable) and gainsaying people (and that means who talk back and argue). That's one of the saddest words in all the Bible. I can see Jes. standing over Jerusalem (Matt. 23: 37) saying 'oh, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often would I have gathered you unto Myself and ye would not'. You know what this clearly shows? That the Jews had every opportunit

EVERY opportunity, but they were unpersuadable, disobedient. How sad! They closed their minds and they were gainsaying or they just argued with God. And God set them aside. But you know that can be true of a Gentile. Have you been unpersuadable? Have you sat and you've heard this message and yet, you haven't heard it and you have never responded to it? Listen, act on it tonight. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved and you've heard the message tonight and if on your face before God, or in your soul, you acknowledge Jes. as Lord and you trust Him and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead; if you'll do this and confess it with your mouth, you will be saved. You will be saved and you can know, beyond a doubt, that you are going to Heaven.

Let's stand and pray.