

Session 7

GOING ON MISSION

Romans 10:1-17

Memory Verse

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

– ROMANS 10:9, CSB





Going on Mission

THEOLOGICAL THEME: The world is full of people who need to know salvation through Jesus Christ. The message of the gospel is meant to go to all people and the charge for Christians is to share that message with everyone they can.

Where do you turn when you need encouragement or hope about a situation? While we should be thankful to have supportive friends or family, the best place for Christians to turn is to the Lord. One of the best things about having a relationship with Jesus is that you are never alone. Even when things are difficult, you have the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide you. Unfortunately, many people get overwhelmed with the difficulties of life and end up feeling like it's hopeless.

Christians are called to share the hope of the gospel with all people. The message of the gospel isn't about hope for "good people" who love God, but for broken people (all people) who receive the message and put their faith in Jesus for salvation.

 What unique circumstances of our time could make people feel like there is a lack of hope in the world?

 How does Jesus give us hope no matter what?

Session Summary

Every believer in Jesus is commanded to go on mission and spread the gospel to the whole world. Paul was concerned for his fellow Jews because so many had rejected the gospel of Christ. He wrote to the Romans about his heart to reach the lost to motivate and encourage them to take up the charge of spreading the good news of the gospel to others.

Recognizing that it is possible to have zeal for God without having the knowledge to confess and believe for salvation, Paul made the gospel message clear. The world we live in is similar to Paul's day. Too many people are searching for salvation through their own works and attempts at righteousness instead of the righteousness of God that comes through faith in Jesus. Those who have believed in and confessed Jesus are to share the truth with others so all have opportunity to receive Jesus.

1. Knowing the Message (Romans 10:1-8)

Paul longed for his fellow Israelites to know Jesus and to accept the salvation available to all who believe through His finished work on the cross. The truth of the gospel changed Paul's life, and he spent the rest of his life sharing this good news with as many people as possible. All followers of Jesus are called to do the same.

Paul acknowledged the zeal, or intensity, that many in Israel had for the Lord. But this zeal was not based in knowledge. This is the same thing that plagues many today. Many count themselves as religious and have passion for some version of spirituality yet have little knowledge of the real Jesus. Paul also once lived this way, but all of that changed when he met Jesus.



Why is zeal, or passion, without knowledge dangerous? Why is passion on its own not enough to reconcile us with God?

Israel's lack of knowledge was not the only problem. They had not submitted to the righteousness of God and relied on their own efforts. This concerned Paul. When people refuse to accept the righteousness of God and think they can earn their way to salvation, it is heartbreaking for those who know the truth. Paul spent his life sharing with others how they could know Jesus and trust Him as Savior. Paul wanted his fellow Israelites to come to the life-changing knowledge of Jesus.

? What is your level of concern about those who don't know Jesus? What might this indicate about what you value most in life?

Note the way Paul compared the righteousness of God with the attempts of people to achieve righteousness on their own. Jesus did everything to fulfill the law perfectly. Christians no longer trust in their own efforts toward righteousness but in what Jesus has done. It is not uncommon for people today to believe they can earn their way to heaven. Many hope that at the end of their lives the good they've done will outweigh the bad and God will accept them. We may have even believed that ourselves. But Paul made it crystal clear that the truth of the gospel is the only way to salvation. We can never work our way to Jesus. Instead, we receive righteousness but trusting in what He has done for us.

? Application: Who has God placed in your life that you can share the good news of Jesus with? What challenges you in doing that?

2. Believing the Message (Romans 10:9-13)

The righteousness of God is gained by faith in Jesus. It is not possible to gain this by our own works or efforts. Instead, Paul stressed the need to confess and believe in the person of Jesus Christ. The act of confession is not just admitting you have done wrong or failed to do right. Confession is also about agreeing with God. When we confess the Lord Jesus, we are agreeing with what God said about Jesus and with what Jesus said about Himself. It means we recognize Jesus is God and His work on the cross is the only way to salvation.

? Why do many find the biblical path to salvation too hard to believe? What makes us think we must do something more to be accepted by God? Where are you tempted to believe this specifically?

Confession accompanies belief. Belief is more than intellectual assent to the claims of the gospel. It means putting trust in the claims of the gospel to accomplish what God has said. We are “putting weight” on the message of the gospel to uphold us and deliver what God has promised. Many claim belief in Jesus on some level, but biblical belief means “going all in” on the claims of Jesus. This type of belief doesn’t just affect the way we think; it affects the way we live every day.

We cannot be saved by our own actions. We can only be saved through Jesus. Paul said believing in Christ produces righteousness and confessing results in salvation. Anyone who has this belief will not be put to shame. We will fall short, but Jesus still loves and sees us.

? If you have believed in and confessed Jesus as Lord, share your experience. If not, how might God be calling you to respond to Him?

In Paul’s cultural context, there had always been division between the Jewish people and the Gentiles. The Jews were God’s people throughout history, and they followed the Mosaic law. The Gentiles had limited understanding of God and were viewed as outsiders. However, Paul made a radical statement that, in Christ, no distinction would exist between the two groups. No matter their background, anyone who confesses Jesus is Lord has been made new and whole, despite their sin. Anyone who calls on God’s name will be saved without any prerequisites.

To call on the name of the Lord is to place one’s full trust in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as the means of salvation. Those who call on the name of the Lord are proclaiming that they have no power to save themselves and are in

desperate need of the saving work of Jesus on their behalf. It is important to recognize and continually remember that this calling is not only a mental assent or intellectual grasp, but a life-transforming belief that Jesus is our only hope in life and death.

As we more fully believe that Jesus is the only means by which a person is saved, we are naturally propelled toward mission for His sake. We are motivated to tell others the good news of Jesus as we realize that there is no other place for them to find true hope. This is a mission that is motivated by love for God and others.

? Application: Where have you been hesitant to agree with God fully about the message of the gospel or go “all in” on your stated belief? What is He calling you toward today?

3. Sharing the Message (Romans 10:14-17)

Paul was compelled to preach the Gospel everywhere he went and encouraged other Christians to obey the command of Jesus to do the same. Paul asked questions compelling the reader to think about those who don't know the name of Jesus: How can people be saved if they have never heard the gospel? How would they hear the gospel if no one preached it? These questions remind us that the work of the church is essential. God's people must be equipped to go out into the world and share the good news.

? What are some unique relationships and areas of influence where God might use you to share the gospel with others?

Quoting from multiple Old Testament passages, Paul said in verse 15, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news.” The image of feet speaks of action, progress, and movement. Those who obey Jesus's command to share the gospel have beautiful feet. This doesn't have anything to do with the physical appearance of one's actual feet. The point is these people are about the King's business, constantly spreading the good news of the gospel to those who need it.

Sadly, those who hear the gospel but reject it will not be saved. Israel had heard the message of Jesus, yet many rejected the claims about Him.

? Why is it important to recognize each person's individual responsibility to accept and spread the gospel? Why is it not enough to be in the "right" church or family?


Jesus is the One who sends us out on mission to share the good news (Matthew 28:18-20). God calls and equips His people with the tools they need to go out and share His word. He supplies us with the talents and gifts we need to proclaim the gospel boldly. What it means to proclaim the gospel looks different for everyone. God might be calling some people to move to a foreign country where the gospel has not yet been shared and minister to people across the globe. God might call others to build a relationship with their next-door neighbors or to invite their coworkers to church. It's important that all people hear the gospel and know how deeply God loves them so that they might believe in Him.


? Application: How is God calling you to be on mission for Him? How will you respond? How will you take action in light of today's study?


Conclusion

Our world is lost and broken. It is impossible for any of us to do good on our own or to live perfect lives. No matter how hard we try, we cannot save ourselves by our own actions and good behavior. That is why we need a perfect Savior. Jesus's death and resurrection brought potential for new life for all. All we must do to be saved is believe in Him. His salvation is free to all people, and the Christian mission is to share this good news with others and bring more people to Christ. Wherever God calls you, whether across the world or across the street, we all have a role to play in spreading the gospel.

Every believer in Christ has the responsibility to continue spreading the gospel message so that all can hear it and respond. This mission has been given to all in the church and not only those in full-time ministry or who have moved overseas for mission work. All who follow Jesus are to share the gospel, and we leave the results of our obedience up to God. We cannot make anyone believe, but we can make sure they have heard the truth.

 Who is your “mission field”—those you know who need to hear the truth of the gospel?

 What steps will you take to have gospel conversations with these people?

 What is the biggest hindrance you deal with in talking to others about Jesus? How can you submit this challenge before Him and seek to trust Him with the results?

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).



FOR NEXT WEEK

Giving Generously

Main Passages

- 1 Timothy 6:6-10,17-19

Session Outline

1. Gain of Godliness (1 Timothy 6:6-8)
2. Dangers of Greediness (1 Timothy 6:9-10)
3. Blessings of Generosity (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

Memorize

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

- Romans 10:9, CSB