

“Essentials of Sharing the Gospel”

A Clear Message

Romans 10:1-13

Today, we will begin a THREE WEEK SERIES on the **Essentials of Sharing the Gospel**. Romans 10 is a powerful chapter giving us instruction and exhortation to share the gospel. Today’s message from Romans 10:1-13 reminds us that it is important that the message be clear.

A **judge was interviewing a woman regarding her pending divorce**, and asked, *“What are the grounds for your divorce?”*

About four acres and a nice little home, with a stream running by.”

“No,” he said, *“I mean what is the foundation of this case?”*

“It is made of concrete, brick and mortar,” she responded.

“I mean,” he continued, *“What are your relations like?”*

“I have an aunt and uncle living here in town, and so do my husband’s parents.”

He said, *“Do you have a real grudge?”*

“No,” she replied, **“We have a two-car carport and have never really needed one.”**

Growing more impatient - *“Ma’am, does your husband ever beat you up?”*

“Yes,” she responded, **“about twice a week he gets up earlier than I do.”**

Finally, in frustration, the judge asked, *“Lady, why do you want a divorce?”*

“Oh, I don’t want a divorce,” she replied. **“I’ve never wanted a divorce. My husband does. He said he can’t communicate with me.”**

TODAY: What constitutes a Clear Presentation of the Gospel??

Romans 10 contains **three sections** describing our **responsibility** in **sharing the gospel**.

- 1. A Clear message**
- 2. A Committed Messenger**
- 3. Confidence in the Power of the Cross**

Can you accurately tell someone how to get to heaven?

There is a story of Billy Graham when he was visiting a city for one of his crusades. He had finished writing a letter and began to look for a place to mail it. Walking around the city for a while, he came across a young boy. He asked the boy **if he knew how to get to the post office**. The boy gave Billy Graham the directions and before leaving, Billy said to the boy, **“Come on over to the arena tonight and I’ll tell you how to get to heaven.”** The boy looked at him and replied, **“How can you know how to get to heaven? You don’t even know the way to the post office!”** (Source unknown)

The CONTEXT of this exhortation on sharing the gospel is the Sovereignty of God. We must remember that He will accomplish his will regarding the salvation of the

lost. Remembering that God is sovereign is important for the following reasons.

1. **Loved ones who may have died without Christ.** We must rest in God's sovereignty that He has accomplished his will, even when we have no confidence that they were saved. God's grace, love, and justice remain even as we reflect on the condition of those who are eternally lost.
2. Those we witness to who reject the gospel, do so within the bounds of God's sovereignty. The Lord has granted them the ability to reject him, and they will be accountable for that choice.
3. Unsaved millions. It might seem as if God's plan is failing because so many do not know the savior. This is a challenge to our faith. But God is still sovereign, and ultimately all things will work together for His glory.

This is why we emphasize a DOXOLOGICAL View for the purpose of mankind.

The purpose of our **witnessing** is God's Glory!

The purpose of **obedience** is God's glory!

This doxological purpose is summed up in the conclusion to this section of Romans (Romans 9-11 God's Sovereignty). Note that the doxology of Romans 11:33-36 also concludes the entire doctrinal section of Romans 1-11!

(Romans 11:33-36) *"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen."*

I. A Clear Presentation of the Gospel reveals **Man's Sinful Condition. 10:1-4**

A. (Romans 10:3) *"Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness."*

B. **The FIRST STOP on the ROMANS ROAD is ROMANS 3:23** (*"for all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God."*)

C. We **cannot BYPASS** this truth, or the message will not produce salvation

D. The danger of the Evangelical message today is that there is no mention of sin!

II. A Clear Presentation of the Gospel reveals **God's Unique Way. Our FOCUS -**

(Romans 10:5) *"Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them.""*

A. ISRAEL pursued a "law of righteousness" (Romans 9:31) *"but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it."*

B. But the way to God's righteousness is through **FAITH. Rom 4:16; 5:1-2**

C. "FAITH" is mentioned 42 x in 35 verses in Romans (NIV).

- D. **“Who will ascend into heaven...”** in Romans 10:6-8 is a quotation from Deut 30:11-14. In that passage, God encourages Israel that his law was not too difficult for them to accomplish. For us, God is not asking us to do the impossible (ascend into heaven and bring Christ down). God is not asking us to do something beyond our ability. Faith is something that everyone can do.
- E. *“The righteousness that is based on faith is quite different. It does not require the valiant exploits such as bringing Christ down from heaven or up from grave.”* (Mounce, NAC, 208)
- F. **EVERYONE** can obtain God’s righteousness because it is **BY FAITH**.
- G. This WAY OF FAITH excludes UNIVERSALISM which is growing in popularity in Evangelical circles.
 - 1. **Pastor Ken Silva** writes a popular Christian teacher who says *“So this reality, this forgiveness, this reconciliation, is true for everybody. Paul insisted that when Jesus died on the cross, he was reconciling “all things, in heaven and on earth, to God.” All things, everywhere.*

*This reality then isn’t something we make come true about ourselves by doing something. It is **already true**. Our choice is to live in this new reality or cling to a reality of our own making.* SOURCE: Ken Silva - <http://apprising.org/2008/12/rob-bell-and-christian-universalism/> quoting Rob Bell in Velvet Elvis

In this one example, Pastor Silva draws our attention to this terrible and unbiblical teaching of universalism. It’s being preached today and gaining many followers.

- 2. When we speak about **ATONEMENT**, and **REDEMPTION** without speaking about **SIN**, we **change the meaning** of atonement into some kind of **personal inward attitude change**
- 3. When we speak about **FAITH** without speaking about the exclusive **Object of that FAITH**, we **change the meaning of FAITH into a personal inner feeling of connecting with a “Higher Power.”**
- 4. In our day and age of **ECUMENISM**, and **RELIGIOUS CONFUSION**, we must take **GREAT PAINS** to make the gospel **CLEAR**.

During a patient's **two week follow-up appointment** with his cardiologist, he informed his doctor that he was **having trouble with one of his medications**.

“Which one?” asked the doctor **“The patch,”** he replied, **“the nurse told me to put on a new one every six hours, and I've run out of places to put it!”**

Sure enough, when the man took his shirt off, he had **50 patches** stuck all over his body. **NOW** the instructions read **“remove the old patch before applying a new one.”** -- The Pastor's Story File, vol. 17, No. 8, June 2001, p. 4.

III. A Clear Presentation of the Gospel Leads us to a **Decision** about the **Person of Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9-10**

A. The Romans Road

1. **I am a Sinner.** (Romans 3:23) *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"*
2. **The wages of sin.** (Romans 6:23) *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
3. **God's gift for sinners.** (Rom 5:8) *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
4. **What must I do?** (Romans 10:9-10) *"That 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. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."*

B. **What is involved in this decision??**

1. **That Jesus is LORD.**

- a. This text follows a poetic Structure (A B B' A')
 - (1) Confess with your **MOUTH (A)**
 - (2) Believe in your **HEART(B)**
 - (3) with the **HEART (B')** you BELIEVE and are justified
 - (4) With the **MOUTH (A')** you confess and are SAVED
- b. The HEART and MOUTH are synonymous.
 - (1) (Deut 30:14) *"No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it."*
 - (2) (Psalm 19:14) *"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."*
 - (3) (Matthew 12:34) *"You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks."*
- c. This eliminates **SECRET FAITH**
- d. This eliminates **MYSTIC Christianity**
- e. Faith is not a FEELING, it is an action of the
 - (1) MIND
 - (2) WILL
 - (3) EMOTIONS

2. **It involves a POINT of DECISION**

- a. CONFESS with your mouth (Aor passive)
- b. BELIEVE in your heart (Aor passive)
- c. This eliminates **"I've always been a Christian"**
- d. **"I've always loved the Lord"**

3. It involves **FAITH** in the **REALITY** of the **Resurrection.**

- a. **“Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead”**
- b. The Resurrection means...
 - (1) JESUS is GOD (Romans 1:4) *"and who through the Spirit of holiness was **declared with power to be the Son of God** by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord."*
 - (2) Nature is SUBJECT to Him
 - (3) *You might not understand the movements of the planets, or the substance of the atom, but we all have experienced the FINALITY of death. Jesus is LORD of this universe!*

IV. A Clear Presentation of the Gospel **Requires a Response**

- A. **Romans 10:11-13. EVERYONE must CALL on the Lord**
- B. Quote from (Joel 2:32) *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the survivors whom the Lord calls."*
- C. Every person, Every race, Every nation
- D. No matter how sinful
- E. No matter how important
- F. No matter how insignificant

There are many gospels today...

The prosperity gospel

The I'm OK, You're OK gospel

The social work gospel

We must make the gospel CLEAR

- Man's sinful condition
- God's Unique way
- A decision about the Person of Jesus
- A decision **available** for everyone, a decision **required** for everyone

WHY? God's Glory~!!! Rom 11:30-36