

THE PRIMACY OF PREACHING

Romans 10:14-21

Introduction: What Do Most Modern People Think about Preaching?

I. Preaching is the Primary Means God Uses to Save Sinners (v.14-15, 17)

- A. Sinners Must Believe/Call on the Lord to be Saved
 - o To “call on” Jesus is virtually synonymous to “believing”
 - o Paul reaffirms the theme of Romans: salvation is by *faith*
- B. They Cannot Believe/Call on Him Unless they Hear About Him
 - o Paul affirms the fundamental missionary enterprise of the church— people have to hear the gospel from somebody!
 - o What about the man “on the desert island” who never hears?
- C. They Cannot Hear About Him Unless Someone Preaches to Them
 - o Paul uses a very specific word κηρύσσω (“to preach”)
 - o What is distinctive about preaching?
 - Preaching is word-centered (in a world that self-centered)
 - Preaching is authoritative (in a world that is anti-authority)
 - Preaching is proclamation (in a world that prefers dialogue)
 - Preaching is corporate (in a world that prefers individualism)
- D. Someone Cannot Preach Unless They are Sent
 - o Preachers cannot send themselves; they are heralds of another
 - o This is why we have “ordination”—an act that signifies a person is called by God to preach
 - o “How Beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news”
 - By citing Is 52:7, Paul shows that God already sent preachers
 - Shows the high privilege of the act of preaching

****** How should these verses change the way we think about the preaching we hear on Sunday mornings?



II. But Some Will Reject This Preaching (v.16, 18-21)

A. Israel Heard Gospel Preaching (v.18)

- o Paul cites Ps 19:4 to show that Gospel has gone “out to all the earth” (v.18)
- o Thus, Israel can’t say “We never heard this message!”

B. Israel Even Understood Gospel Preaching (v.19-20)

- o Paul cites Deut 32:21 to show that Israel was so aware that God was going to save Gentiles that they were jealous (v.19)!
- o And God did save the Gentiles, “those who did not seek me” (v.20)

C. But Israel Still Rejected the Gospel Preaching (v.16, 20-21)

- o “But they have not obeyed the Gospel” (v.16)
- o God sought Israel but they were a “disobedient and contrary people” (v.21)

****Key point:** Hearing and even understanding the gospel message does not mean someone will believe it! It requires the work of the Holy Spirit

****Key Point:** But, this doesn’t mean anything is wrong with preaching. The problem isn’t the delivery method, the problem is the recipient.



Discussion Groups

1. Share with the group your opinion about preaching before today's Bible study? Has this study changed your thinking?

2. How does the importance of preaching affect the way you think about evangelism?

3. How does Israel's rejection of the Gospel help you better understand your unbelieving friends and the way they think?

