

FPFWC Christian Development

April 11, 2020

Lesson #2 – Do You Hear Me?

SCRIPTURE TEXT – Romans 10:5-17

ICE BREAKERS -

1. What does it mean to be saved?
2. Why is it essential to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead?
3. Why is both believing with the heart and confessing with the mouth important for salvation?

Key Verse: So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. – Romans 10:17 (KJV)

LESSON COMMENTARY

[10:5-13](#). In [v. 5](#), Paul alluded to [Lv 18:5](#) (see the note there), and with it censures unbelieving Israel (see the similar point of allusions to [Lv 18:5](#) in [Neh 9:29](#); [Ezk 18:9](#); [20:11](#)). He indicates that if one insists on establishing his righteousness with God by keeping the law, then he will live (have eternal life) *only* if he actually keeps the law. But Paul already demonstrated the futility of this in chaps. 1-3. In [vv. 6-8](#), Paul cited [Dt 9:4](#) and [30:11-14](#), where Moses commanded the people to obey the Lord. As in Moses' day when God graciously took the initiative to make the law readily available to the Jewish people so they could obey it, so also in Paul's day He made the gospel accessible as well. [Verses 9-10](#) are sometimes cited to support the idea that one must publicly and verbally confess Christ in order to be saved. Confessing is a result of true saving faith and an evidence of it (cf. [1Tm 6:12](#); [Ti 1:16](#)), and lack of confession may indicate lack of salvation. Much of the apostolic preaching included an emphasis on Christ's resurrection (cf. [Ac 2:14-40](#); [3:12-26](#); [10:34-43](#); [13:16-41](#); [17:16-31](#)), and it is faith *in a resurrected Christ* that saves one (believe... that God raised Him, [v. 9](#)). In [vv. 11-13](#), Paul cited [Isa 28:16](#) again (cf. [9:33](#)), and expanded on the implications of "whoever believes" in [vv. 12-13](#). In [v. 13](#), Paul cited [Jl 2:32](#), emphasizing the universal availability of the gospel.

[10:14-17](#). These verses ask questions that ultimately receive an affirmative answer in [v. 18](#) (Indeed they have). Regarding the need to get the gospel to the Jewish people, messengers have been recruited ([v. 14c](#)), sent out ([v. 15a](#)), the word of faith has been preached ([v. 14b](#)), the message has been heard ([v. 14b](#), [17, 18](#)), and the message has been understood ([vv. 19-20](#)). So, what is the problem? The problem is, they did not believe it ([vv. 16-17](#)). Paul's point is that God cannot be blamed for not doing enough to get the gospel to the Jewish people. The problem, at least in chap. 10, resides with Israel's refusal to believe the gospel. [Romans 10:14-15](#) are often used as motivational

verses to bolster world evangelization, but the context makes it clear that Paul had in mind the Jewish people, and that, even in his day, the gospel had made extensive inroads into Jewish communities throughout the Mediterranean world. But the mission to the Jewish people has not been completed.

Sources: *Moody Bible Commentary*