

Romans 10:18-21 (NASB)

18 But I say, surely, they have never heard, have they? Indeed, they have; "THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD."

19 But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says, "I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION, BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU."

20 And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME, I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME."

21 But as for Israel He says, "ALL THE DAY LONG I HAVE STRETCHED OUT MY HANDS TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE."

There is a theme in these 4 verses that will eliminate all excuses for not being saved.

You will remember that the goal of everything that God's grace reveals is that in order to enter the Kingdom for the Jew and heaven for the Christian, one must have God's righteousness in order to get in.

Now in verses 18 thru 21 Paul is going to prove that there are no excuses for not having the Righteousness of God.

Specific application is to Israel

General Application is to everyone.

It is like Paul is thinking, “is there any way I can explain away Israel’s not acquiring God’s righteousness?”

His answer specifically for Israel and generally for gentiles is- You have no excuse for missing God’s Righteousness

The witnesses Paul is going to call to the stand are all Jews and one is a King (David), then next one is a Legislator/Priest (Moses) and the last one is a prophet (Isaiah).

The general application is to all who have heard the gospel and have rejected it. Israel is a microcosm of all men.

Vv.13 *"For everyone whosoever, who shall call on the **name** of the Lord, shall be saved"*.

This verse explains the point of the entire paragraph: **Salvation/righteousness is for anyone who **calls*** dependently upon the name of the Lord, i.e. Jesus Christ.**

***Calls upon=epikaleo in the middle voice. The idea is calling needfully or dependently upon**

When these scriptures speak of the **NAME of our Lord Jesus Christ, they are obviously summing up everything that He is and is known by.**

18 But I say, surely, they have never heard, have they? Indeed, they have; "THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD."

Indeed, they have-He cannot say he has not heard

- Notice that Paul does not go back 25 years to Pentecost for an example he goes to the Old Testament. Acts covers 25 years
- The Old Testament covers centuries
- He wants to convince and convict by revelation from Israel's own leaders not his own recent experiences.

Some would try to convince you based upon their own experience, but Paul goes to scripture instead.

POINT- the messenger's experiences are not proof.

Psalm 19:1-5 Key passage on [natural revelation](#). You can learn from the creation about the creator.

Psalm 19:1-5 (NASB)

¹ The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

² Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge.

³ There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard.

⁴ Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun,

⁵ Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber; It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.

Natural revelation- what may be concluded about the creation that tells us about the creator from His work.

1. The heavens are telling specifics about the creator Vv.1
2. The witness never stops Vv. 2
3. No words- the witness is inaudible Vv. 3
4. The witness is universal, it's everywhere Vv.4a
5. In them He has placed a tent for the sun. Vv. 4b-5

The message of the gospel is now as universal as the testimony of the heavens in [Psalm 19](#).

[Psalm 19](#) has its answer now in Christ being set in the heavens as the true Sun of the moral universe.

This revelation has been met by present history-

The message was going out to the Mediterranean basin. **Acts 17:1-6** the gospel to all the world and they understood it

Acts 17:6 (NASB)

⁶ When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have upset the world have come here also;

Acts 21:27-28 (NASB)

²⁸ crying out, "Men of Israel, come to our aid! This is the man who preaches to all men everywhere against our people and the Law and this place; and besides he has even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place."

¹⁸ But I say, surely, they have never heard, have they? Indeed, they have; "THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD."

These things cannot be limited now to Israel;

- The Messiah according to flesh might be peculiarly *theirs*, and in a sense limited to them;
- But the Message of a rejected and crucified Messiah by His own, Israel, and set as a glorified Man at the right hand of God in heaven, could not be limited in any way.

The sun shines for every creature under heaven, and Christ is the true Sun shining now from the heavens where God has set Him.

And the divine voice goes out now Vv.18 "*into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the habitable world*".

***THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH,
AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD."***

- The heavens belonged to no land in particular, nor do the sun and stars shine for Israel alone.
- They are for man in the earth at large according to the generosity of Him whose rain falls on just and unjust, and whose sun is made to rise on evil men and on good.
- Just so, whatever the limited sphere of the law, the gospel goes forth in the grace of God without restriction.
- God is not indifferent, if the Jews were, to the Gentiles; He has given a testimony to them in their dark ignorance.

What if they heard but didn't understand what they heard?

19 But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says, "I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION, BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU."

Again, the question contains its own answer. They knew!

Can I show that they heard but didn't understand? I can't

Know what?

He calls Moses to the witness stand

(Deuteronomy 32:21 (NASB))

21 'They have made Me jealous with what is not God; They have provoked Me to anger with their idols. So, I will make them jealous with those who are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation,):

***I will provoke you to jealousy with that which is no nation,
With a nation void of understanding will I anger you. That
which is no nation—***

- Compared with the marvelous place and privileges of the race of Israel, it could be said of every other people,
- Gentiles or the nations “*It is no nation, a nation void of understanding*” (of the things of God).
- *I will anger them—for Israel can be reached in no other way—either then or now!*

If God seeks to provoke them to jealousy: beware how you worry over them.

The nation Israel had rejected Him, and now they were being provoked to jealousy through God blessing the Gentiles.

- God was being found by those who did not seek Him;
- He was becoming known to those not inquiring about Him.
- All this was known to Israel, but it did not affect them in any gracious way.

The general thought is:

All had not believed; and this proved it was a testimony to the Jew, and it was gone out into all the world.

²⁰ And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME, I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME."

Now Paul calls Isaiah again to the witness stand; and Isaiah gives a double testimony: he is very bold in his prophecy of Gentile salvation:

Quotes. **Isaiah 65:1 (NASB) ¹ *"I permitted Myself to be sought by those who did not ask for Me; I permitted Myself to be found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here am I, here am I,' To a nation which did not call on My name.***

I was found of them that sought me not;

I became manifest unto them that asked not of me.

What are the 2 issues in which all men are alike?

Rom. 3:9- quotes Psalm 14:1-3 and Psalm 53:1-3.

"For there is no difference; for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God".

Romans 3:9-12 and 18 (NASB)

⁹ *What then? Are we better than they? Not at all, for we have already charged **that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;***

¹⁰ *as it is written, (Psalm 13:1-3 and 53:1-2 **"THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;***

¹¹ ***THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;***

¹² ***ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."***

¹⁸ ***"THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."***

The other characteristic is that all might be justified freely by grace.

Now he says again, Vv. 12" *For there is no difference of Jew and Greek; for the same Lord of all is rich towards all that call upon him*".

- Jesus is the universal Lord for the administration of all divine wealth in grace,
- But men have to put on the connection to Him from their side by calling upon Him.
- We call upon Him when we hear how rich He is; when we hear what wealth of grace and blessing is in Him.

God is seeking me- not the other way around.

God has sent preachers to make known to men what a rich Lord there is, so that they may hear of Him, and believe on Him, and call upon Him.

Colossians 1:3-6 (NASB)

³ We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;

*⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which **you previously heard** in the word of truth, the gospel*

*⁶ which **has come to you**, just as **in all the world** also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, **even as it has been doing in you** also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth;*

We saw that faith is "by a report" -- a definite communication made concerning matters which would never come within man's knowledge if they were not reported to him.

And this report is "by God's word"; it is God speaking to men in grace that they may know Him and have a direct and personal link with Him through what is reported to them.

That is the "report", and it is "by God's word"; there is such a report because it has pleased God to speak to men with regard to Himself.

Where the report is believed, God is known in the heart according to the revelation He has made of Himself, and this is faith.

We have learned in these verses to believe on Him and call on His name;

- There must be the personal calling upon Him;
- It is the calling upon Him that definitely links one with all the power of God's salvation that is in Him.
- Faith is not something that springs up in the heart of man apart from what he hears, or apart from what he hears being "God's word".

People often tell us that they have "faith" about things which have never come to them as a divine report. They succeed in persuading themselves that certain thoughts of their own, or of other persons, can be relied on; they have arrived at certain inward convictions, and think that these are "faith".

Christians are characteristically **"those that call upon the Lord"**.

²¹ But as for Israel He says, "ALL THE DAY LONG I HAVE STRETCHED OUT MY HANDS TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE."

Isaiah 65:2 (NASB) ² "I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who Walk in the way which is not good, following their own thoughts,

Jesus has stretched out His hands to Israel and to everyone

- Certainly, they would not call on One in whom they did not believe.
- But in order to believe on Him they must hear of Him, and
- They cannot hear without a preacher, and
- A preacher is of no value **unless God has sent him.**

Is the message from God to us that we are to seek salvation?

As showing how far Christendom has lost the whole spirit of the gospel, everywhere people have the idea they ought to “seek” salvation; they are everywhere told they ought to “go to church.” “Change” “Serve” etc.

You say, **should we not seek God?**

No! We should sit down and hear what is written in Romans:

1. Listen about your guilt, then about your helplessness, and then about the inability of the Law to do anything but condemn you;
2. Then believe on Christ whom God sent; and
3. Then call out His name and praise God for righteousness apart from works, apart from ordinances!
4. Hear how God laid sin, your sin, on a Substitute, His own Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and that now, sin being put away, God has raised Him from the dead. **Seek God? No! God is seeking you**

The grace of God is not idle nor inefficient.

The main message is that God is the One who is proactive in getting out the message of salvation and deliverance- not man-

Man's responsibility is to hear, believe and call out.

Acts 14:17 (NASB)

*¹⁷ and yet **He did not leave Himself without witness**, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.'";*

Romans 1:20 (NASB)

²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they

This message is general, though enough to assert and exemplify the principle.

- The good tidings then **came by** a testimony sent of God in His creation and **through** those preachers He sent.
- It was **not by the law (10 commandments)** which could only show the Jew and Christian his duty and convict him of sin because of his failure under it.
- **The only hope of good** for a sinner is from the gospel; but, if so, it goes out **not to some only** but to all mankind.
- **And as Isaiah proved** that the message would be slighted by the Jews "***Who has believed our report?***"

The Old Testament bears witness to a universal testimony of God in creation as expressive of the principle that He thinks of and cares for, and would be known by all, even the Gentiles.

