

Romans (10:14-15)

Longing for the Lost

Part 47 – September 4, 2005

CONFESSING CHRIST

In Rom. 10:10 Paul gave us a two-fold requirement for salvation:

- A. Confess with your mouth that “Jesus is Lord”.
- B. Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead.



These are the necessary internal and external components of authentic, Christ-centered faith. An internal condition of the heart. An external expression of the mouth.

As we look at the external expression (i.e. confessing Christ as Lord), we can see that it breaks into two responsibilities:

- A. Calling on Christ for *our* own sake (*vs. 13*)
- B. Confessing Christ for the sake of *others*

We’ve covered what it means to call on Christ for our own sake. Today Paul focuses on confessing Christ for the sake of others.

I like the term: Confessing Christ. It not only carries the idea of informing others of the good news of the gospel, but also of:

- *Admitting* something that may be inconvenient.
- *Owning up* to a responsibility to speak truth.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” – Romans 10:14-15 NIV

Paul begins with the goal: To “call on” Christ for salvation. And then he works his way back through the basic “dominos”.



- To call on Christ, someone has to be “convinced”.
- To be convinced, they have to “hear” the message.
- To hear, someone has to “speak” ... someone “sent”.

PASS IT ON

Q: So, the first domino is the one who is sent. But, *who* is it that is sent? And *who* is it that's doing the sending?

The answer can be found in Jesus' commission to his disciples after his resurrection:

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! **As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.**" - John 20:21 NIV

If you're a disciple of Christ, YOU are the one who is sent, and Jesus himself is the one who has entrusted you with his message!

Confessing Christ to others, admitting what he's done in our lives, owning up to our responsibility to speak truth in love, is more than a good deed - it's an assignment from our Savior!

- The responsibility of salvation is to pass it on.

PAUL'S HEART

Q: Has your sadness for those who don't know Christ, matured and developed into a desire to actually see them saved?

Compare how Paul opens chapter nine, to how he opens chapter ten:

I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. - Romans 9:2 NIV

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. - Romans 10:1 NIV

- In chapter nine, he speaks of: "sorrow" and "anguish"
- But in chapter ten he speaks of his: "heart's desire"



I wish I could play the piano. Wouldn't it be fun to just sit down and play? See, I regret that I don't know how to play ... but I don't desire to learn how! That would take ambition and practice and commitment.

It's one thing to regret what *is not*, it's quite another to desire what *can be*. To long for it, pray for it, and work for it.

But if I want to have a heart like Paul's ...

- I must mourn their condition **and** desire their conversion

BEAUTIFUL FEET

Now Paul finishes the thought by quoting a well-known passage (to the Jews) from Isaiah 52:7: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Let's look at the quote in context:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation ... - Isaiah 52:7 NKJ

Q: Did you notice the subtle but striking difference between Isaiah's "feet" and Paul's "feet"?

- A. Isaiah: "The feet of "him" who brings good news"
- B. Paul: "The feet of "those" who bring good news!"

In both the Hebrew and Greek translations of the OT, it's clear that Isaiah is referring to a *single* messenger.

In fact, this quote precedes the 53rd chapter of Isaiah, famous for its detailed prophecy of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Q: And what is the "good news" the messenger proclaims?

- A. "Peace" - reconciliation between God and man.
 - B. "Glad Tidings" - a joyful report of blessing.
 - C. "Salvation" - deliverance, freedom, & relief.
- In Hebrew the word for "salvation" is "Yeshuah".
 - Jesus' name, in Hebrew happens to be: "Yeshuah".

The Messiah came with a message of peace, joy, and salvation. And now he's commissioned/sent his ambassadors to proclaim it.

Q: So, how beautiful are your feet?

Paul and Isaiah don't mean that the messenger's feet are aesthetically pleasing. He travels by foot, so those "dogs" are probably calloused, cut up, and filthy!



But, it would be like the flood victims in New Orleans saying: "How beautiful are those beat-up old convoy trucks that bring relief and deliverance and freedom from the flood!" The beauty is based on what we bring.

AVAILABLE & APPEALING

Paul makes it clear with his set of “dominos” in verse 14, that as disciples, we must make ourselves available.

We look at the flood victims in the news and we want to reach out and help them any way we can. And yet, we have people “drowning” all around us, and we have the relief at hand.

Q: Do you know why God leaves us here after we’re saved?

There are two main things we can’t do in Heaven:

- A. Sin.
- B. Share our faith with those who need relief.

And he didn’t leave us here to sin!

With the “dominos” it’s clear we must be available; but with the Isaiah quote, it’s clear that we must be appealing. A poor presentation can disguise good news as bad. We’ll never *argue* someone into the Kingdom of God.

- Pushing will only promote resistance.
- Attraction always promotes reception.

Q: So, how do I make sure my feet are bringing the good news?

By “confessing” the relief and freedom and transformation and joy that you’ve experienced in your walk with Christ. If you say: “I don’t have relief and joy ... I’m not being transformed.” You got ugly feet! You need “The Great Podiatrist”!

Really, the only legitimate good news we have is the difference Christ has made (and is making) in our lives.

Q: And what if other people still don’t see it as good news?

We’re called to “confess Christ” as ambassadors. If someone realizes their need, they’ll respond. If they don’t, they might just shoot at the very people trying to save their lives.

- We’re responsible for the presentation, not the response.

Q: How beautiful are your feet? Do you *long* for the lost?

Let’s seriously consider the part we can each play in the salvation process of family and friends and co-workers.