

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

²⁰ And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was *already* named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation; ²¹ but as it is written,

"THEY WHO HAD NO NEWS OF HIM SHALL SEE,
AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND."

²² For this reason I have often been prevented from coming to you; ²³ but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since I have had for many years a longing to come to you ²⁴ whenever I go to Spain—for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while—

(Romans 15:20-24)

¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

¹⁵ How shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF GOOD THINGS!"

¹⁶ However, they did not all obey the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?"

¹⁷ So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

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."

(Romans 10:14-21)

Universal Proclamation

"So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (10:17)

Universal Proclamation

1. Have the nations heard? Yes!

- God the creator has already been proclaimed in all the earth through creation (Psalm 19:4)
- the proclamation of the gospel has its anticipation in the creation itself – it runs the same course
- the gospel has been propelled by God into the world to reach all nations

Universal Proclamation

- *What about those who have never "heard"?*
 - they have "heard" the proclamation of creation and are therefore without excuse and under God's wrath for idolatry (Rom. 1:20; 2:12)
 - they need to hear the proclamation of the gospel in order to believe and be saved (Rom. 10:17)

Universal Proclamation

2. Did Israel know of this proclamation? Yes!
 - Moses said that God would provoke Israel to jealous anger by those who are "no people" (Deut. 32:21)
 - Isaiah said that God would be found by those not seeking Him (Is. 65:1)
 - Isaiah also said that Israel willfully rejected God's continuing offer of mercy (Is. 65:2)

Universal Proclamation

- Conclusion:
 - Marvel that we have been "found" by God though we did not seek Him
 - Be encouraged to share the gospel with your neighbor and the nations as the *necessary* and *promised* means by which God saves