



Week 1

Romans 10:13-17

The Big Idea: If we don't share the gospel we are cutting people off from their only hope of salvation.

## Pre-Group

<sup>13</sup> For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

<sup>14</sup> How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" <sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" <sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

## STUDY: Romans 10:1-17

Before interacting with this guide, all leaders and group members should study the referenced text using the HEAR Method.

**H:** Highlight, or take note of, things in the passage that stick out to you as you read.

**E:** Explain what the passage means by asking simple questions of the text:

- **Why was this written?**
- **To whom was it originally written?**
- **How does it fit with the verses before and after it?**
- **Why did the Holy Spirit include this passage in the book?**
- **What is He intending to communicate through this text?**

**A:** Apply the text to your life. What does God want you to learn from this text?



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**R:** Respond to God in prayer.

Questions for Study and Reflection:

- 1.) As a believer, what is your obligation to share the gospel with others?
- 2.) What do you think happens to lost people that don't hear the gospel?
- 3.) What is the way of righteousness that Christians need?

## **Major Themes:**

1. We don't attain righteousness by following the rules. Works of the law don't get us righteousness. We are made righteous by calling on the name of Jesus.
2. We have to bring the good news of Jesus to the world that is destined for hell without it.

## **Summary:**

Romans 10 is a heartfelt section from Paul about his desire for his fellow Jews to be saved. He opens up the section saying that he would be willing to give up his salvation (if one could do such a thing) so that he might bring salvation to his fellow Jews.

Wow. Can any of us honestly say that we desire someone to be saved so badly that we would give our own salvation to make it happen? Probably not.

Why is it that the Jews are cut off? They are cut off because they are looking for righteousness in all the wrong places. The Jewish people had made a decision to look



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for righteousness from their own works. They had been given the law of Moses and they decided to try to attain righteousness through works of the law.

The problem here is obvious: even our best works are as filthy rags before God because we are sinful.

So, Paul lists out a new way of righteousness, righteousness that comes from the Lord. How does one attain this righteousness? Paul makes clear, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Righteousness comes from asking Jesus.

This leads Paul to another point: people can only call on Jesus if someone brings them the good news.

How can they believe, if they have not been told?

Paul here gets to the obligation laid upon every believer. We are called to take the gospel to those who do not have the righteousness of Jesus Christ that is offered up freely.

How beautiful are the feet of everyone who brings the message of the good news!

Group Time

## Introduction

“It’s only good news if it gets there in time.”

We’ve probably all heard this statement before. Truer words have never been spoken. The gospel is only good news if we can get it to those who need it before it’s too late.



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107 people die every minute around the world, 6,390+ every hour. How many of those don't know Jesus? How many of those didn't get the good news in time?

### **Understanding and Applying**

Before we can understand our obligation to share the gospel, we must first understand what makes the gospel such good news.

Read Romans 10: 1-13

The Jews had made a fatal mistake when it came to understanding how righteousness was to be achieved. Instead of seeing the law as a way of life as God intended, they viewed it as a path to righteousness.

The problem with that is obvious: there is no amount of good works that can make us righteous before God.

Read Isaiah 64:6

Are there times where you are tempted to trust in good works to earn your salvation.

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Paul offers a different path, the only path to salvation. How do we attain righteousness? We call on the name of the Lord and receive his salvation. We believe in our heart and confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and we receive Jesus' salvation.





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What does it mean to believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord?

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Understanding the good news leads us to be people who share the good news.

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If all who call on the name of the Lord shall be saved, then Paul asks the obvious question. How can they call on him whom they have never heard of?

As Christians who have received the good news are now obligated to take the good news to those who need it. The harsh reality is that everyone who dies without calling on Jesus for salvation will spend an eternity in hell.

Do you ever think about the reality that those who don't know Jesus will spend eternity separated from God in hell? What about those who die without ever hearing the good news of Jesus, do you ever think about how they will spend eternity without having ever heard about their only hope?

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How can you be more faithful in sharing the gospel with those in your life who need to call on Jesus? What are you willing to do for those who have never heard?

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## Closing

Spend some time taking prayer requests from the group.

Afterward, pray together for the lost in your lives and ask God to give everyone a heart to take the gospel to those who need it.

## Resources

### Teacher's Bible Commentary

#### Israel's Rejection (Rom. 9:30–10:21)

**The passage.**—Israel's rejection is due to her stubbornness. She sought salvation through legalistic works and did not submit to Christ (9:30–10:4). The law method can never work; it demands what man cannot do—perfect obedience from the cradle to the grave (v. 5). The faith method can work; man can do what it asks (vv. 8–10). The faith method makes salvation possible for all men (vv. 11–13).

Universal salvation demands universal proclamation of the gospel (vv. 14–15). Israel has indeed heard, but she hardened her heart against God (vv. 16–21). This is why she has been rejected by God.

**Special points.**—Paul was speaking of the Jewish nation as a whole, as a nation. Many individual Jews, among them Paul, had believed. This section explains why Israel as a *nation* was rejected of God, once and for all time. She had refused to listen to God; she was no longer a fit “vessel” for his grace.

Verses 9–10 show evidence of being a pre-Pauline formula of salvation. Paul used it because he agreed with it. Salvation demands two things which are really one. (1) Heart-belief is demanded. This is the kind of belief that makes the resurrection of Christ personal and real. (2) Confession is demanded. One must confess that “Jesus is Lord” (RSV). This confession would be primarily to the Lord, but also to men when



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possible. Secret discipleship is not encouraged in the New Testament. The confession would ordinarily be with words of the mouth, but it needs to be confirmed by the actions of life.

Fisher, F., L. (1972). [Romans](#). In H. F. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs (Eds.), *The teacher's Bible commentary* (p. 716). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.

## Holman Christian Concise Bible Commentary

### Believe and Confess (10:1–21)

Paul argued that only a remnant of Israel ever believed (9:27–29). In rejecting Christ Israel was following a precedent already at work in earlier days. The Jews' zeal was commendable but nevertheless misguided. The only way of acceptance before God was faith in Christ and was (and is) within the reach of all. Those who believe in their heart and confess with their mouth "Jesus is Lord" will be saved. People cannot believe unless they can hear, and they cannot hear without a preacher. Though Israel heard, they still rejected God's message.

Dockery, D. S. (1998). [The Pauline Letters](#). In D. S. Dockery (Ed.), *Holman concise Bible commentary* (p. 550). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

## The Bible Panorama

### CHAPTER TEN

V 1–4: **CONCERN** Paul's 'heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved'. Their zeal in trying to establish their own righteousness, which they can never do, shows their ignorance of God's righteousness. That can only be found in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is 'the end of the law to righteousness to everyone who believes'. In other words they must come to faith in Christ to be saved. V 5–13: **CONFESSION** Paul shows from the Scriptures the principles of salvation which now apply to faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. That principle is that when one's faith in the living Christ is personal and real, that believer will confess this openly and by mouth to others. This will form part of a changed lifestyle. The challenge is whether one's faith is real enough to produce the willingness to stand out and confess personal faith in Christ. The encouragement given is that anyone trusting in Him, whether Jew or Gentile, will never be put to shame, but will be saved. God's richness of mercy more than compensates for the poverty caused by our sin. V 14–16: **CALL** Given that whoever calls on Him will know His salvation, the logical question is asked as to how unbelievers are going to hear of Christ in order to call upon Him. The answer is that preachers of the gospel must be sent to tell them, always bearing in mind that even then there will be many who do



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not obey the gospel and turn to Christ, though the offer is open to them. V 17: CONCLUSION The simple conclusion is that saving faith is produced by hearing God's Word. V 18–21: COMPARISON Using the Old Testament Scriptures, the comparison is made between Gentiles, who have believed and come to know God's blessing, and the Israelites, who are thus provoked to jealousy by seeing outsiders come to know the God who longs that they should turn to Him. Although God will judge sin, He confirms to Israel that 'All day long I have stretched out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people'. God is always willing to welcome returning sinners, be they Jews or Gentiles.

Chrispin, G. (2005). [\*The Bible Panorama: Enjoying the Whole Bible with a Chapter-by-Chapter Guide\*](#) (pp. 483–484). Leominster, UK: Day One Publications.