

Tony Hewson
Romans 10

Introduction

As we have seen, in Chapters 9 to 11 of Romans Paul deals with the topic of God's sovereignty.

God's will is never frustrated, he does whatever he wants to do and none can frustrate his purposes.

As we have also learned God is always absolutely right in what he does, his decisions are without fault for who are we as sinners to question his justice. See Deuteronomy 32:4 and Job 34: 17 to 19

In chapter 9 we seen his absolute sovereignty in showing mercy to those he chooses, even though they are no better than those he leaves in their sin and rebellion.

In chapter 10 we see his absolute sovereignty in the preaching of the gospel. He left the Jews unchanged in their hardness and unbelief but had mercy on the gentiles.

In chapter 12 we see his absolute sovereignty in the timing of the response of the nations to the gospel. Israel rejected it because God did not open their eyes but the Gentiles did believe and only when He has finished with the Gentiles will Israel as a nation believe

This does not mean that God condemns men to judgment and gives them no chance to believe.

He does not force the will of men and make them do what he wants.

Men choose freely to take the actions they do, the human will is absolutely free

However the human will is not independent but is in bondage to human nature.

The will is the servant not the master and cannot not make us do what it is not our nature to do.

Because our natures are in rebellion against God and we do not want to draw near to Him then our will is never to repent and believe. there needs to be a work of grace to change our natures and give us new natures so that we believe the gospel, repent of our sin and ask for mercy. Without such a work of sovereign grace all men would remain rebels, none would be saved.

The preaching of the gospel changes the hearts of some of those who hear. It produces faith as a result of God giving faith as a gift. That he does not give it to all his his choice but it is also true that he gives faith and forgiveness to everyone who asks for it.

Summary of the passage

Verses 1 to 3 Paul again expresses his prayer and desire that Israel would be saved, though as the subsequent chapters show, he knows that it will not be so, until God's purposes with the Gentiles be completed.

Israel's problem was that they refused to submit to the gospel, even though they 'knew all of the facts having had the law, the prophets and the ceremonies which all pointed to Christ. Ignorance is a matter of the heart not lack of facts – see Ephesians 4:18

Verses 4 to 8 Quoting Moses to show that the Jews had been told the gospel from the beginning, Paul repeats again the difference between salvation by faith and salvation by works.

By works – keep the law 'perfectly' – which he has spent chapters showing that no-one can, or by faith believing and confessing Christ even though our minds cannot fully understand it.

Verses 9 to 13 Paul repeats again the essence of the gospel whoever calls in faith on the Lord Jesus will be saved showing the two vital elements believing and confessing.

Verses 14 to 17 Paul shows that the way God saves people is through the proclamation and hearing of the gospel and that even in this God is sovereign in his sending the gospel to people. Only when those authorized by him come, will people hear and be saved

Verses 18 to 21 Had Israel not heard – yes – but that hearing did not produce faith – only rebellion.

Here again is the mystery of God's sovereignty. Israel in a sense was seeking God – they

If you are new or visiting; a special warm welcome to you. We trust you enjoy your time with us.

Today we will be having communion. If it is your practice to participate in this we welcome you to join with us in celebrating the Lord's Supper. If this is not your custom or if you are unsure of what to do please just pass the emblems (bread and wine) to the person next to you.

This Morning

Speaker Tony Hewson

This Evening

- JCF 5.00pm
- Creation Evangelism 7.00pm

Monday

Planning Meeting at All Saints Hall 7.30pm.

Next Sunday

4th October - John Hannah

Thursday Kidz Club

6:30 - 8:00 pm

7 - 12 year olds

Ph: Allan Maguire - 4767197

Prayer Items

Tropical storm Ketsana struck the Philippines last Saturday causing a large number of deaths, with more than 400,000 displaced and staying in evacuation centres, as well as widespread damage and destruction. We have been asked to pray for the provision of basic needs for flood victims such as clean water, clothes, health care and housing. GCiM has been in contact with our mission partners and national friends in Manila. The key groups associated with the Christian Brethren Churches in the Philippines are coordinating the process of relief distribution to the affected churches or family members from the Assemblies. There have been about 20 Assemblies affected by the flood and we have had a number of reports from our partners telling of the heart breaking needs confronted by so many believers.

The Tsunami that struck Western Samoa has caused a number of deaths and destruction of villages. The images we have seen on our TV screens have been horrific. We stand with our Samoan friends and their families, both in Samoa and in New Zealand at this time of national loss. An area where teams from New Zealand visit regularly, such as WORD OF LIFE groups, are near the worst affected areas.

GCiM have contacts in both these affected countries. We will be pleased to send gifts through G Aid (a separate entity, but part of GCiM) to assist with relief in these areas. Please send your gift to GCiM, cheques can be made out to GC Aid. For internet banking you may send it to 06 072 0522196 00 (National Bank). Please make it clear in the reference section what it is for. We do not take expenses for monies going through GC Aid and for disaster relief. Please pray for these countries and for our Christian brothers and sisters at this difficult time.

were zealous – yet did not believe the gospel when they heard it. Whereas Gentiles who were not seeking him did believe when they heard.

Why? Because God did not open the hearts of the Jews but did open the hearts of Gentiles for his own eternal purposes

Lessons for us.

To examine our hearts to see if we have genuine faith, not just an intellectual belief in our heads.

Knowledge of the facts does not save but submission of our heart to God

Realize that it is the gospel, which though it is offensive to men, that saves them by its supernatural power.

The gospel is a proclamation not a suggestion.

As we unashamedly issue the proclamation like Paul did in Acts 17 at Athens, those whom God is calling will come alive and respond and it is the preaching of the gospel that God uses to revive their dead hearts.

Look at what we are doing to proclaim the gospel and examine its effectiveness.

If people are not responding ask why?

Are we actually preaching the biblical message using biblical methods?

Pray that the Lord would send labourers with his authority

Small Groups

Tuesday

- Ladies Home Group - see Laura Hannah 473-7954
- Central Home Group - see Steve Clark 479-2070
- Brockville Home Group - see Geoffrey Stewart 476-7888

Thursday

- JCF Home Group - see Gideon Chang 488-2118
- Town Home Group - see Dave Smeaton 453 0569

Friday

- Friday morning Home Group - see Bethney Stewart 476-7888

Prayer Groups

Wednesday

- Men's prayer group meeting at Dan and Stephs from 6:30am till around 8am.

Thursday

- All Saints main church building from 5:15pm

Sunday

- All Saints Hall from 9.00am

NOTICES

- Crèche Roster
4th October; Hayley Smeaton, Rosie Pettigrew
11th October; Jen Pettigrew
- AGM The AGM will be held this year on the 11th of October following a pot luck lunch at the Wray Street Youth Hall.
The Cornerstone Wray Street Trust Board is the legal entity that is responsible for this church and its activities. The Trust Board meet once a month to manage the "business affairs" of the church, including making decisions about how the money that is received in donations each month is to be spent. The Trust Board legally requires a minimum of 5 trustees. The elders of the church are automatically trustees and there can be up to 10 other trustees appointed. Trustees must be current members of the church and should have the skill, understanding of good governance and experience necessary for the role. Trustees are nominated by the elders and then elected by a majority vote of the church members at the annual general meeting of the church. Trustees can be men or women and must be over 18 years old. For the coming year, there will be 6 trustees on the Board, other than the elders. There is room on the Trust Board for up to 4 more trustees. The annual general meeting will be held on Sunday 11 October. If you would like to make a suggestion to the elders of somebody who you think would make a good trustee, please speak to either Ron, John or Ross and ask them to nominate that person at the annual general meeting.
- Despatches
 1. Informer and memoirs from Tom & Liz Mclver of Word of Life - see notice board and church table.
 2. Christian Resource Centre International magazine see notice board and church table.
 3. Slavic Gospel Association 'Focus' magazine see notice board, church table.
 4. FEBC 'Voice of Friendship' magazine plus 'Skywaves' NZ Issue - notice board, church table.
 5. Making of Disciples Ministries (MODM) Poster and fliers on notice board and church table.

Any notices for the church newsletter should be sent to Ron Jack at ron@scsolutions.com or call 467-2024 before Thursday night!