

ROMANS: TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

(Romans 10:14-17)

What do you think your reputation is in this community? Unknown? Loud-mouth? Generous? Joyful? Grumpy? ASK...
What do you think our reputation as a church is in this community? New? Friendly? Bible Preaching? A Loving church?
Gracious? Welcoming to all? Non-judgmental?

At the WELL, we also want to be known as a **SENDING** Church: A missional church!

A Church willing to give itself away for eternal things: This is a biblical desire; obedience; right!

-But the church is made up of people, and we won't be a missional church, a church that gives itself away, **UNLESS** we are a people who have been deeply captured by God's grace (who feel the deep, lavish grace God has poured out upon us) -people who have received great grace = give great grace in return; =a gracious people!!

-deeply forgiven people = forgive BIG and Often; they forgive others more easily

-deeply loved people, who are accepted fully in Christ = love other people well w/ God's love!

-deeply gifted people, those who have been spiritually given much by Christ and who find their joy, pleasure, and satisfaction in Christ alone – THEY freely give themselves away.

In the Kingdom paradigm, Jesus teaches us: "**he who wants to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses their life for me will find it**" (Mt. 16:25). Jesus is saying, if you want to live and function as a Christian in God's Kingdom – you will learn how to give your life away for His sake, to build His kingdom, and for His glory alone!

*Only two things on this earth we can take to heaven with us: **Word of God** and **souls**. (So, shouldn't we be investing in these two things disproportionately to everything else in this world of no eternal value??

READ Romans 10:14-17

Vs. 13: For everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved:

Vs. 14: "How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ But how are they to preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!" ¹⁶ However, they did not all heed 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."

In **WHAT** are you spiritually investing your life? In **WHOM** are you spiritually investing your life?

-What have you given up, given away for the Lord's sake, b/c of His call on your life? b/c Obed.?

1. The Lord makes a clear statement that salvation is **by Faith in Him** (saving faith relationship) and **NOT by works** -Eph. 2:8-9 "**For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**"
2. The Lord makes a promise: **Anyone who asks for salvation through Faith in Him WILL BE SAVED** (rescued: from self, sin, & consequences of sin=eternal death): =Eternal life
-John 3:16 & John 6:37 "**the one who comes to me I certainly will not cast out/never reject.**"

-So Paul makes the next logical conclusion, - **HOW are people supposed to hear about the**

greatest news ever told? **Vs. 14:** "How then are they (the lost) to call on Him (Jesus) in whom they have not believed? **AND How** are they to believe in Him (Jesus) whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? **-by the way, I'm not the only preacher here today**

3. **You and me, we are the answer to this biblical question.** People can't hear the Good News of the gospel *until* someone tells them about Jesus, and that He's the only way to salvation.

A. **Because you have been saved by Jesus, you have been touched by grace, transformed from spiritual death to life, filled and empowered with God' Holy Spirit, and called to a life of unique usefulness to glory God and advance His kingdom by bringing the light of the gospel to the darkest places around you . . . You are on MISSION with Jesus!** Your life was bought with a price (His blood: 1 Cor. 6:19-20 "Or do you not know that your body is a ^[a]temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from ^[b]God, and *that you are not your own?* ²⁰ For you have been bought for a price: therefore glorify God in your body.) and as a new transformation (a new creation) your life goals and spiritual purpose on this earth look different than before you were saved. Your mission is to continue Jesus' mission when He left this earth

-Luke 19:10 "For the Son of man came to seek and save that which was lost"

-John 14:12 "Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do; because I am going to the Father."

*When you became a Christian, you were filled with the Holy Spirit and the Lord called you into a life-long process of discipleship (to be a learner and follower of the Lord Jesus for rest of your life – to follow and go wherever He LEADS you. -*Are you truly following Jesus today?*)

-Remember, Jesus was very clear what discipleship meant for those in the first century and nothing has changed today: Discipleship meant ultimate SURRENDER. If you are going to be a follower of Jesus, you surrender to His Lordship immediately and forever: (**rich young ruler**) -Luke 9:28 "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

-The Elders of the WELL define discipleship "One who is daily following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and who continues the mission of Jesus" – *Are you following? Where is Jesus*

leading you? If you are being honest with yourself, Jesus is **NOT** leading you into greater self-sufficiency, greater comfort, greater ease, greater uselessness for spiritual things – NO, Jesus IS leading you to trust HIM with every part of your life; He's leading you to the most dangerous and costly to yourself areas of this world, to go where it will cost you dearly of your pride and comfort, to the epicenter of darkness and spiritual unfamiliarity, -where you only have Him and where you need His strength and power to succeed, where His glory and worth shine the brightest – where sin and lost people are confronted with grace, truth, hope -*ARE you IN or OUT? Following Jesus, being fully surrendered to Him WILL COST you n this life* -**Where do you sense Jesus leading you today? -Who is next that you are called to pray for, then serve -with the hopes of developing a relationship, to have an opportunity to share the gospel and give away hope?**

A. **You are ON Mission with Jesus.** Uniform up!! It's time. The battle is waiting!

B. **You have a STORY to tell. You have a message to give away. You have hope to spread. You have a joy to live out. You have been given your life to give away for His sake!**

C. **The question is NOT for you and me, *should I* be sharing my faith and giving away my life for the gospel, giving up my fears of sharing, of being rejected, of losing my worldly reputation, comfort, ease, pleasures, and sense of self-importance & self-sufficiency ...**

BUT ...WITH WHOM will I share the good news next? Who's up next? *Who's ur 1?*

Vs. 15: But how are they to preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!” The reason more Christians are not actively sharing their faith is because churches have shied away from reminding Believers of their divine gift of the gospel (their treasure) which they are **to give away! I blame Pastors!**

-Eph. 4:11-12 “And Jesus gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, some as pastors and teachers,¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ” – God raises up pastor/elders to lead the church into the daily work of ministry to the Body of Christ and **to** the Lost community around us. **NEEDS???**

*[Pray. Ask For God to show us Needs. We move to meet needs. Est. relationships. Gosp. convos]

Paul is stating: How can the Church go and preach the gospel UNLESS pastor/elder leaders disciple their Church faithfully in the WORD, model evangelism, equip the saints to do the work and then CALL them/Invite them into the lost community to get busy!! Let’s go!!!

-We are called to disciple our own **family**. Lead and disciple them first!

-We are called to spiritually & physically invest in your **local church**. (Serve. Disciple. Connect)

-We are called to prayerfully go in your workplace, schoolplace, neighborhood, community & serve and share the gospel actively. **Romans Road Tool**.

*We are called to Church Plant (start new gospel works in this area/in TX/Nation/World)

**We are about to SEND out Chad and Rebekah Poling to go to Holland. First couple SENT.

Vs. 16: However, they did not all heed 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.” Our calling is to share the gospel, as ambassadors of Christ, & we leave the spiritual results up to God. He draws!

Prayerful Questions to Consider if you are actually ON MISSION with Jesus:

-Do you find yourself LOVING the things God loves? Hating what He hates? Or are you indifferent?

-How do you spend your time? Who are you modeling your faith for? Being a Spiritual example to?

-Or are you wasting your free time on frivolous, non-eternal, meaningless diversions?

-How are you spending your money? How are you investing your dollars for Kingdom causes?

-Or are you wasting your money on things that have no eternal value? You are called to be a steward of everything God has entrusted to your care!

-How are you investing your experience, spiritual gifts, talents, your failures/successes?

-How are you building God’s Kingdom locally to bring people to Christ and help believers grow deeper with Christ? Who are you discipling? Spiritually mentoring? Helping the next generation?

-Where will you reap your spiritual rewards? On earth? (where moth, rust, & robbers destroy?)

-Or in heaven, as a gracious form of worship to lay your crowns of glory at His feet?

=EVERYTHING you have, own, enjoy, even your next breath – ALL belong to God. You are just borrowing it for a little while on this earth.

-Mt. 16:26 “What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?...” -**What will be the fruit of your life? Your sp. legacy?**

- **“Only one life, ’twill soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last.”**

APPLICATION

We preach the Word for a Faith Response:(Salvation, Repentance, or Obedience (call to sp. action))

-Call to be saved today? -Call to repent from apathy/indifference to lost all around you?

-Call to action: To be mobilized to share your faith? To be disciplined in growing deeper in love with Jesus and the things that Jesus loves? To be trained how to share your faith? Be disciplined?

**If you are ready to be disciplined in your faith or to disciple another: Kathy@thewellargyle.com