

ROMANS: TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

(Romans 10:18-21)

If you were never told something by your boss, could you be reasonably expected to do it? Report? New system? Or are there some things you should always be expected to do, whether or not you were explicitly told? Co-worker choking? Report someone who is cheating or abusing the work space? Are there truths intrinsic to us -act upon?

What about the Fate of the Unevangelized? What happens to those who never hear the gospel in their lifetime? Can they still be saved?

So, What about those who have never heard of Jesus? What about those who grew up in a diff. worldview?

- **Religious Pluralism** (all ways, all roads, all religions lead to same God = Jesus is Not only way to God)
- **Universalism** (all people will eventually end up in heaven B/C Jesus makes Himself known after death)
- **Inclusivism** (Jesus is only way, but people can be saved whether they knew His name or not -by faith)
- **Exclusivism** (Jesus is the only way to God, and salvation only comes through a faith response to knowing and accepting Jesus Christ while one in this world)

Read Romans 10:18-21

Vs. 17. "Faith [salvation] comes by hearing and hearing through the Word of Christ." =evangelism

¹⁸ But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? On the contrary: "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 with *those who are* not a nation, With a foolish nation I will anger you." ²⁰ And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I was found by those who did not seek Me, I revealed Myself to those who did not ask for Me." ²¹ But as for Israel, He says, "I have spread out My hands all day long to a disobedient and obstinate people."

*What is the heart of God toward people who don't know the gospel? Haven't heard of Jesus? --
-Paul demonstrates God's actions in the OT, reminding the Jewish people that since they rebelled against a Covenant God who sought them out of nowhere from nobody (Abram of UR), that God's loving and missionary heart also extends to the pagan Gentiles too...

Vs. 20: And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I was found by those who did not seek Me, I revealed Myself to those who did not ask for Me." We need to remind ourselves of God's missionary heart!

-AND, that God wants us to have His heart, to love what He loves...we need a missionary heart too!! *Let's consider God's Missionary Heart from the very beginning:

Consider these 7 Expressions of God's self-revelation to show the World His presence, power, and desire for a divine relationship with those who never knew God:

- God gave Adam & Eve Himself to enjoy a relationship with Him forever (= **God initiated** rel...)
- God rescued Noah & his three sons; gave them Truth of God to enjoy a relationship forever
- God raised up Abraham (Gen. 12) that *through* him God would bless all the nations of earth/Jes
- God sought out His people Israel, & Moses to be a lighthouse to nations (Is. 42:6) = a witness
- God sent His Son, Jesus, a Jew to lead Israel back to the Truth & birth the Kingdom of God

*God sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for the sins of the WHOLE WORLD:

-1 John 4:9 "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."

-1 John 2:2 "Jesus Himself is the atonement/sin-offering for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the WHOLE world."

- God sent His Holy Spirit to reside on earth & *in* men to lead them to Christ for salv. (Jn. 6:44)
- God established His Church through Jesus & calls His Church on earth=share the gospel/world

*God still intervenes in this world through supernatural/miraculous events to show lost & unsaved peoples *His* presence, power, & the reality that they NEED Jesus as Savior! =**Dreams**

God initiated all these events in history; This has been God's plan. **To SEEK & SAVE the lost!

Remember God's missionary heart in the OT in Jonah:

-We see in Jonah that God had a heart to redeem the most wicked, vile, and violent people in the Ninevites. *God displayed His mercy upon the least worthy of peoples.* (Jonah 2:4) **=us!**

A. God wants to bring the **gospel** (good news of salvation) to **all** peoples on the earth

-1 Timothy 2:4 "God our Savior who wants **all people** to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." -Rev. 5:9 "Jesus purchased people **for** God with your blood from **every tribe, lang., people, and nation.**"

-Matthew 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the **whole world** as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

B. God wants to use His **disciples** (the Church) **YOU** to bring that message of the gospel

-Acts 1:8 "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth." -Matthew 28:18 "**As you go, Make Disciples** of all nations" =commissioned

C. There is no other way for anyone to be saved (spiritually rescued) **except by Jesus**, through a saving faith relationship with Jesus. (**Not good works; not being baptized; not going to church; not just loving God; not being religious; not great sincerity toward a spirituality; not for Buddhists, Hinduism; Islam; Judaism; or any "ism"**) -only by Faith alone in Jesus alone!

-Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved."

-John 14:6 "Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me."

-1 John 5:12 "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

*Are you saying that Jews are not saved? Faithful Muslims? Righteous Buddhists? Good people??

-1 John 2:23 "Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also."

*So, how will all the world hear about the gospel so as to be saved? =**US!!!!** This is God's plan.

-What about those who have never heard the gospel? Far remote places? How will they be saved?

****God is still pursuing Hearts around the globe. He is still initiating relationships/gospel**

Vs. 18 But I say, surely they [Gentiles] have never heard, have they? On the contrary: "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world." =whose voice has gone out? Peoples? The Jew's witness?

-Paul is referring to Psalm 19, where he is indicating that God has declared His own existence to all the world through His creation: = **General Revelation:**

-Psalm 19:1-6 "The heavens tell of the glory of God; And their expanse declares the work of His hands.² Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge.

³There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard.⁴ Their sound/voice has gone out into all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun,⁵ Which is like a groom coming out of his chamber; It rejoices like a strong person to run his course. ⁶Its rising is from ^lone end of the heavens, And its circuit to the ^rother end of them; And there is nothing hidden from its heat. Paul reminds us that God has given general revelation

-Romans 1:19-20 “that which is known about God is evident within them [conscience]; for God made it evident to them [Creation].²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes, that is*, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

Vs. 19 But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? [have the Jews heard the gospel? Do they know what to expect?] First Moses says, “I will make you [Israel] jealous with *those who are not a nation*, With a foolish nation [Gentiles] I will anger you.”²⁰ And Isaiah is very bold and says, “**I was found by those who did not seek Me, I revealed Myself to those who did not ask for Me.**”²¹ But as for Israel, God says, “I have spread out My hands all day long to a disobedient and obstinate people.” The Jews were given Jesus as Messiah & they rejected Him; crucified Him.

***In God’s sovereignty & for His own pleasure . . .**

-God sought out the Jews to make them His Covenant People. He elected them as His own. They rejected their given Messiah. So, God made a way that Jesus would be Savior of world -Rom. 1:16

-God still seeks out people(s) to make them His own thru a saving faith rel. w/Jesus Christ.

-God still initiates salvation within hearts of the Lost (both here & around the world): **Pattern...**

A. Acts 8:26-40 (Phillip & Ethiopian Eunuch): Ethiopian = raised an animist (ancestral) = now **seeker**; **God sent Angel to get Philip (believer=missionary)**; miraculous timing & **div. initiated**

B. Acts 10:1-47 (Peter & Roman Centurion Cornelius): Cornelius = Roman polytheist; God-fearer; **God sent a vision to Peter; God sent a vision of an angel (messenger) to Cornelius: =God initiated/prepared the way. BUT, God still used a Believer to witness to lost/gospel!**

****AND In God’s sovereignty He allows man’s free will to either obey/reject His call:**

-As a Believer, we can obey His calling and share the gospel with lost/go to the lost -or NOT People who hear the gospel can in their free will accept or reject it. God doesn’t force ‘em.

What about those who have never heard the gospel? Are they responsible for own salv?

=**There is NO plan B.**=Jesus!! ****The lost can only hear the gospel if *someone will go & share it!***

-Those around the world (remotest areas) will die & go to a godless eternity/hell **unless** they hear and respond to the gospel by saving faith. **There is NO other way. YOU r answer**

=This is the biblical reality and motivation for missions. “***Missions exists b/c worship doesn’t***”

AND God is still initiating relationships with the Lost to bring about their salvation thru a witness

APPLICATION

-God has never left Himself without a witness: Conscience; Creation; Jesus; Spirit; Bible; Church

-Because God went to extraordinary, supernatural measures to save Ethiopian Eunuch& Cornelius what do we learn about God’s heart?=Rescuing heart, Relational heart, Missional heart.

-If we want to be a part of God’s missional purpose on earth (adventure), we have to be ready, willing, and a useable tool in God’s hand to give gospel away. Are you ready, willing, useable?

-What in your life have you said NO to God about? What do you need to release in your life in order to be wholly useable to God? -Your pride, limited knowledge, Unconfessed sin? Fear?

-Who is missing a chance to hear the gospel & be saved because you are unwilling to share? “**We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.**” 1 John 5:20