

## **A Church on Mission**

### **Going on Mission**

#### **Romans 10:1-17**

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**Introduction to Text:** At various times this year, I have done some major teaching on our core values as a church. I have suggested that we adopt these four core values as a church.

1. We much preach the same Gospel.
2. We much declare this message to the next generation.
3. We must preach this same Gospel to all the nations.
4. Whatever we accomplish must be all for God's glory.

In this current series, we are focused on the third core value. A singular word for this core value is the word "missions." Today, I want to talk about "Going on Mission."

There is a great missionary text in Romans 10.

**Text:** <sup>1</sup> Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God concerning them is for their salvation! <sup>2</sup> I can testify about them that they have zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. <sup>3</sup> Because they disregarded the righteousness from God and attempted to establish their own righteousness, they have not submitted to God's righteousness. <sup>4</sup> For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. <sup>5</sup> For Moses writes about the righteousness that is from the law: The one who does these things will live by them. <sup>6</sup> But the righteousness that comes from faith speaks like this: Do not say in your heart, "Who will go up to heaven?" that is, to bring Christ down <sup>7</sup> or, "Who will go down into the abyss?" that is, to bring Christ up from the dead. <sup>8</sup> On the contrary, what does it say? The message is near you, in your mouth and in your heart. This is the message of faith that we proclaim: <sup>9</sup> if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> With the heart one believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses, resulting in salvation. <sup>11</sup> Now the Scripture says, No one who believes on Him will be put to shame, <sup>12</sup> for there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, since the same Lord of all is rich to all who call on Him. <sup>13</sup> For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

<sup>14</sup> But how can they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe without hearing about Him? And how can they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup> And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How welcome are the feet of those who announce the gospel of good things! <sup>16</sup> But all did not obey the gospel. For Isaiah says, Lord, who has believed our message? <sup>17</sup> So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.

**Introduction:** Make no mistake about it—Romans 9-11 is as challenging a section of Scripture as there is. However, Romans 10:1-17 has some of the most passionate words of missionary appeal as is in God's Word. We have talked about a basic belief in missions. We have talked about giving as though on a mission. Today, I want to talk about "going on mission." One thing is certain in this text: "We must go." Throughout the New Testament, you will see over and over again, that we must be a going people. This text gives us at least four concrete reasons we must be a going church.

## **Reasons We Must Be a Going Church**

### **1. Openness to the Gospel.**

This may surprise you, but people want to hear the Gospel. Some talk about a God-shaped vacuum that all humans have. That is, there is a yearning in every human to know God.

Joe Mckeever wrote in his blog this week about a man named Bill. Bill, a carpenter, had mentioned to some of his co-workers about that inward spiritual hunger. One of the men, a believer, invited him to church. He was not prepared for Bill's response.

"How do I do that?"

The friend said, "How do you go to church? Simple---you get in your car and drive down there, you park, and you walk inside."

Bill said, "You mean just anyone can walk inside a church?"

"Yeah," he said. "Anyone."

The next Sunday Bill heard the Gospel of Christ and responded by going forward during the invitation time and giving his hungry heart to the Lord who alone could fill it.

We might assume that everyone around us has heard the Gospel and either responded to it or rejected, but not true. Many people when confronted with the Gospel will respond to the Gospel.

### **2. Authority of the Gospel.**

A second reason that we must be going is the authority of the Gospel. There is no other way to righteousness.

### **3. Obligation to speak the Gospel.**

We have an obligation to speak since faith comes by hearing.

As my alarm radio sounded, the first thing I heard was, "Though no official word has been given, Prime Minister Tony Blair is now giving his own confirmation that Saddam Hussein has been captured." Simultaneously my wife and I sat up in bed as if to say without words, "Did you hear that?" No snooze this morning—indeed we had heard correctly what everyone would soon know. I told the lady who sold me coffee. "Praise Jesus," she said, "That is good news." I walked outside the store to see the newspaperman filling his machines. He knew. In fact he was lamenting that Sadaam's capture did not happen earlier enough to be in the paper.

Later that day I thought of the good news the shepherds heard that glorious night in Bethlehem. "Fear not: for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." And then the shepherds "made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child."

As I thought about the shepherds' joy, I felt a little bit awkward about my joy. Indeed, Saddam's capture was good news, but very small in comparison to the good news that a Saviour has been born for all people.

**4. Urgency of the Gospel.**

Certainly implied in this text is that there is an urgency to share the Gospel.

**Conclusions:**

- 1. Whatever else we do as a church, there must be an emphasis on going and sending.**
- 2. We must give some particular focus to going to those people who have not yet heard. (Romans 15:20-21)**

I offer these two things in closing.

**Clarify the Call**

**Eliminate the Excuses**—We can't do everything, but we can do something.

I hadn't been your pastor but only a couple of months when I met this particular woman. Hurricane Katrina had hit and our CajunDome was filled with evacuees. Our member, a nursing instructor, at UL called. She had been working at the CajunDome since taking in people. She insisted that we had to take in the little babies along with their families. Some of these babies were literally only days old. Those were interesting days and we got through them. Sometime went by when this same lady scheduled an appointment with me. She shared that though many would call her crazy, she was feeling called to leave her UL position and follow a call to the mission field. One thing led to the other and now our friend Jerry White serves in an undisclosed country planting seeds of the Good News. We have no excuses when God calls us. Remember then that He calls all of us to go. We just must determine the where.