

## MISSIONS: COMMUNICATING CHRIST Romans 10:13-15

***“For ‘whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”***

Have you talked to any little green creatures lately? For several years scientists have been listening to detect sounds from creatures that may be in outer space on other planets. One group of scientists claims that as many as 50 million civilizations may exist out in space somewhere.

Therefore, these scientists have not only been listening but have been broadcasting messages to any intelligent life that may be out in space. These attempts at communicating with space aliens include a variety of sounds from earth: a train whistle, cat’s meow, baby’s cry, rock music, etc. One message they have sent says, “Come and visit us sometime.” These scientists believe that there may be other beings on other planets and are trying to communicate with them.

Christians should be involved in communicating with other beings—not in space but upon earth! We Christians are by our calling and commission to be communicators. This is the mission and ministry of the church of Jesus Christ. The focus of our communication is not to be directed toward outer space but toward other fellow human beings on planet earth.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in the city of Thessalonica saying, “From you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything” (1 Thessalonians 1:8). We could well ask ourselves, “Are we doing all that we can to sound forth the life-giving Word of God?”

Perhaps we would be doing a better job of communicating God’s truth to a society devoid of it if we better understood all that is involved in the process of communication. From the world of technology there are three words which will help us to better understand the process of communication. They are transmission, transmitter and transceiver. At this point some basic definitions are in order:

- What is meant by transmission? It is the act of transmitting a message from a transmitter.
- What is a transmitter? In electronics and telecommunications a radio transmitter is an electronic device which sends out a signal.
- What is a transceiver? In radio terminology, a transceiver means a unit which contains both a receiver and a transmitter which not only receives a message but can respond to the message.

Without getting too technical we will look at each of those three terms as they apply to the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ. Let us all think of ourselves as being a radio station. Our bodies are the buildings which contain the equipment that sends out the signal; the Holy Spirit is the power source and the world at large is the audience. Now we, the radio station, are ready to begin sending out the signal, the transmission.

### **MISSIONS INVOLVES A TRANSMISSION**

With the three terms in mind—transmission, transmitter and transceiver—let us focus upon the Romans 10 passage, beginning with verses 15 and 16 and working back through Paul’s argument. In the last part of verse 15 and the first part of verse 16 Paul writes, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel.”

Notice the words, “the gospel of peace”, “glad tidings of good things” and “they have not all obeyed the gospel.” These words refer to the Christian’s transmission—the vital message that must be broadcast. Encapsulated in the words, “gospel of peace”, “glad tidings” and “the gospel” is that which is to be transmitted, communicated, broadcast. And what, precisely, is that message?

Back in verse 9 of this chapter, Paul wrote, “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” The heart of the gospel message is the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Faith in the finished cross-work of Christ freely confessed, Paul says, is salvation.

This then is the transmission that we are to sound out everywhere. The transmission, the communication, the message is:

- A singular message - there is not another like it. It is distinct from all other announcements. Elsewhere, Paul said, “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord” (2 Corinthians 4:5);
- The saving message - it is not to be commingled with works-religion, self improvement philosophies or man-made remedies. God has given us a Ruler to exalt, not a set of rules to impose; He has given us the Law-Fulfiller to preach, not a ledger of laws to apply; He has given us the Christ to proclaim, not a creed to chant.
- It is a simple message - man is the sinner, God is the Savior, the gospel is the remedy!

“We have heard the joyful sound:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Spread the tidings all around:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!”

The gospel contains the central elements of divine revelation. Its content is unique, its transmission is to be universal and its power is unparalleled. It brings God down into the human heart; it changes a sinner into a saint and makes a hell-deserving soul fit to be a heaven-dwelling citizen. Therefore, preach, publish and proclaim it!

### **MISSIONS INVOLVES A TRANSMITTER**

The transmission of the message of the gospel cannot be accomplished without a transmitter. Paul is talking about the transmitter in verses 14 and 15. He says, “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?”

Paul is talking about human transmitters. He uses the word “they” 7 times in verses 14 and 15. The “theys” in verse 14 are those who need the message. The “theys” in verse 15 are the transmitters of the message. Let us read Paul’s two questions again, changing the word preacher to “transmitter” and the word preach to “transmit” as follows: “How shall they hear without a *transmitter*? How shall they *transmit* unless they are sent?”

Every person who has been transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ is a transmitter! Some will respond, “But I am not a preacher and Paul says, ‘How shall they hear without a preacher?’ Therefore, I am not expected by God to be a gospel transmitter.” Wrong! You see, the word “preacher” and the word “preach”, in verse 15, come from the Greek language and are translated into the English language. When words are translated from one language to another sometime the original meaning is lost sight of. The Greek word for “preacher” in verse 14 and “preach” in verse 15 is “kērussō” and means “to herald, proclaim, publish.” Of course, when one preaches from a pulpit they are heralding, proclaiming and publishing a message, but one does not need a pulpit to herald, proclaim or publish!

A herald, in years gone by, was one who went about communicating a message—he was a transmitter of news. One need not be divinely called to transmit from a pulpit, nevertheless, every believer is to be a transmitter of God’s gospel message. Jesus said, “As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you” (John 20:21). And, “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses of Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Every true Christian has been transformed to transmit God’s truth transmission!

**Illust.** In January, 1930, King George was to deliver a major address. The Columbia Broadcasting System was to carry the address. At the last minute, it was discovered that a cable was broken, and that the King’s message would not be broadcast. Walter Vivian, a CBS employee, instantly took hold of the two ends of the broken cable putting them together and holding them together allowing 250 volts of power to go through his body. The transmission of the King’s message went out, thanks to the surrendered body of George Vivian.

King Jesus longs to speak to a lost world of mankind and invite sinners to come to Him, but sin has broken the connection. He looks for surrendered bodies of Christians to carry the message. You are an important link in the transmission process. Whatever the cost, will you help bridge the gap?

### MISSIONS INVOLVES A TRANSCIVER

Remember that, in the world of technology, a transceiver is a unit which contains both a receiver and a transmitter, which not only receives a message but can respond to the

message. The transceiver, in the context of our scripture in Romans 10, is the sinful heart of mankind which needs to hear the transmission sent out by the transmitter. The word “heart” is used 3 times in this Romans passage (verses 8, 9, 10) and refers to that internal receptive apparatus within us which can receive God’s message and which can respond positively or negatively depending upon whether it is activated by the Holy Spirit.

Not all sinners possess that spiritual sense of hearing. At least seven times in the Gospels and seven times in the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ, Jesus said, “Whoever has ears let him hear” or “He who has ears let him hear.” He was not speaking of the physical appendages on the sides of our heads, but the internal spiritual hearing ability. The sinner who is sensitive to the Holy Spirit, responds in several ways as Paul states in verse 14, “How then shall they *call* on Him in whom they have not *believed*? And how shall they *believe* in Him of whom they have not *heard*? And how shall they *hear* without a preacher?”

The responding sinner does so in the following manner:

**He hears** – “How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not *heard*? And how shall they *hear* without a preacher?”

**He believes** – “How shall they *believe* in Him of whom they have not heard?”

**He calls** – “How then shall they *call* on Him in whom they have not believed?” “For ‘whoever *calls* on the name of the Lord shall be saved’” (Romans 10:13). That is, calls in repentance and faith.

**He confesses** – “If you *confess* with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth *confession* is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9-10).

The above responses are the result of the impact of the dynamic of the Gospel of God upon the sinner – the transceiver - who is receptive to the Gospel transmission. What a wondrously marvelous privilege it is to be a link between God and the repentant/believing sinner. Blessed is he who is an obedient transmitter!

**Illust.** More than 400 years ago, the mother of King Akbar the Great of India, became seriously ill. Her son, the King, was desirous to hear of her condition every hour, so he arranged a human communication line to bring him news every hour. He did that by stationing a man at the door of her palace and another man within calling distance, repeatedly, for over 200 miles! There was 200 miles of living transmitters, men, stretching through cities, over mountains and through the desert. The message concerning the King’s mother was shouted from man to man every hour day and night. The gospel transmission can be transmitted rapidly when each saved one tells another one of the only One who can save!

“Waft it on the rolling tide:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Tell to sinners far and wide:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!”

**JdonJ**