

## How Can They Be Saved?

### Romans 10:1-17

There are many important works being accomplished by Christians in our city, and across the globe. But is it possible to name one among them that is the most important? Yes. And that is that everyone unbeliever would hear and believe the Gospel, and thus be saved from sin and hell. If the Gospel proclamation is the burning center of all Christian ministry, then it ought to be a primary place we invest all our resources of prayer, time, and support. This sermon opened up important insights into two views of how to deal with sin: One is by works (hard to pursue, and impossible to succeed); the other is by grace through faith (easy to pursue, with success guaranteed by God). Most of the world's religions and most people's hearts default to a system of works. But the Bible makes clear, and the Holy Spirit today testifies to that fact that a system of grace and mercy, expressed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved. But so many have not yet heard this Gospel. Shouldn't those who have not yet heard be, logically, the Christian's burning desire?

*Questions to begin (or end) your discussion on:*

1. What was one thing from this sermon that was really hard to hear, or that you struggle to believe?
2. Was there anything preached that you believe you need to act on? How can your group help you?
3. What are the specific ways you are contributing to preaching or sending the Gospel to every tribe, language and nation? Could you do more?
4. If you are convicted about your lack of involvement in reaching the lost around the globe, would you be willing to pray a simple prayer; admitting any sin of neglect in this area, and asking Him to direct you to new ways of helping to reach the least-reached communities of the world?

*Verses 1 – 5*

5. If we have attended Bible-believing churches for long, we know that we are not supposed to believe in or pursue a "righteousness" that comes from works. But what are some ways we can still act as if we believe that God will put our sins on one side of the scale and our good works on the other, and if we have done more good than bad, then we will be accepted by God?
6. If you are a Christian, your sins (past, present and future) are covered by the blood of Jesus. What then are your motivations for doing good works?
7. So many of the world's religions offer "steps" to be acceptable before God, or to become God-like. Imagine you were born into a family and society steeped in one of these systems of belief... Would you want people who knew the Gospel to give only a few moments, occasionally to pray for you, and to give a couple cents out of every dollar they had to send someone to share it with you? If this question makes you uncomfortable, what is causing that discomfort?

*Verses 6 - 13*

8. The Bible plainly teaches that God hates sin, condemns sinners, and will punish sinners who have not heard and believed the Gospel with everlasting "weeping and gnashing of teeth." Many who go to church and love God have an understandably hard time internalizing these truths. Be honest; do you believe these things are true? If not, does your lack of certainty come from a hope that they might not be true?... Out of concern for unsaved family? ...or from what?

9. Relative to a system of works, the grace system expressed in the Gospel is so much “easier.” How is it easier, and how is it not?
10. College Park is a good church, and it loves the Word of God. This means that most of the people who attend our church and who are in our small groups are likely to be people who are authentically saved from sin by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. Yet, there probably are some among us, who generally think of themselves as Christians... but in fact have never believed in their heart and confessed with their mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Do you have serious thoughts that this may describe you? If so, what is keeping you from giving your life and heart to Jesus?

*Verses 14 - 17*

11. At one point, Pastor Nate said “The logic is inescapable. You have to believe in something to call on to save you; and to believe in it you have to know about it; and for you to know about it someone has to tell you...” What are some of the implications of this on your plans for this week/year?
12. During REACH I 11, the sermons for the next few weeks will focus on global outreach. While there are still many people in our own families and communities that have yet to hear the Gospel, we will focus in coming weeks on the areas of the world where there is virtually no one who knows Christ, no one to tell whole families or whole cities about how to be saved. ... What has your exposure to “unreached” or least-reached communities been? What perspective has that brought to your life?
13. If God is all-powerful, and Christians are His chosen instruments for communicating the Gospel from person to person, why is nearly 1/3 of the world without the opportunity to hear this good news, and be saved?
14. Here is a typical, honest question: *“What about the guy in the jungle who has never heard of Jesus, and no one in his village has ever heard either... A loving God surely would not send this innocent person to hell, would He?”* Pastor Nate answered it this way: “No, God would not send an innocent man who had never had the opportunity to hear the Gospel to hell... the problem is this man does not exist. You see, there is no innocent man in the jungle.” How does this question or its answer impact you?
15. Pastor Nate raised two issues that come to prevent a Christian from being engaged, sacrificially in helping to reach the world’s lost: One is lack of caring (either because of improper theology of sin, hell, and the Gospel, or little love for the lost) and the other is lack of doing. Share about a time in the past when you have overcome one of these?
16. As a small group, what would it look like for you to “adopt” an unreached people group to pray regularly for? Or to begin to be connected to one of Our missionaries? Or to think about all or most of you going on a Vision Trip together? Or perhaps reading and discussing one of the REACH I 11 books in the coming months? (copies available in the narthex)

*Praying for the nations:*

- 1) Pray that God would send out laborers to his harvest (Matt 9:37-38)
- 2) Pray that God would reveal to you things that you are clinging to that are keeping you from being as involved in God's mission as you should be. Repent as God brings things to mind.
- 3) Pray for missionaries that you've had contact with. Pray particularly for their walks with God and for salvation for the people to whom they minister.
- 4) Pray that College Park Church would be characterized by Gospel-advancing prayer.
- 5) Ask God for wisdom about how you could better invest your finances in the work of global evangelism.