

May Jesus Christ be Praised - Part 2

THE PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE Romans 10:11-21

STIMULATE

Our series, entitled "MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED", breaks down into five parts and is designed to teach us how to praise the Lord as a way of life. Just as a reminder, the five parts were:

- 1) The Profession of Praise
- 2) The Proclamation of Praise
- 3) The Privilege of Praise
- 4) The Promise of Praise
- 5) The Practice of Praise.

** Do you recall from last week, what was wrong with Israel's zeal for God?

Romans 10:2 - It was "not in accordance" with a knowledge of the Truth but merely based on their own legalism!

** What two things make up our "**Profession of Praise**" to Jesus Christ which we can share with those around us?

(See Romans 10:10)

- 1) That we believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead (which is the gospel).
- 2) That we confess with our mouth Jesus as Lord (which is our response to the gospel truth).

** Have you had any opportunity to share your "Profession of Praise" with others around you?

MOTIVATE

** As we began to learn last time, praising the Lord is a way of life, not just a phrase that we tack onto the end of a thought to make us sound spiritual. As we live our life in a grateful response to all that Jesus Christ has done on our behalf, is it enough to only profess our praise of Him to those who happen to cross our path, or is there something more?

** What is our duty as Christians, regarding the "good news" of the gospel and how does it become our "**Proclamation of Praise**"? Please look with me at Romans, chapter 10, verses 11-21 and let's enjoy what the Lord has for us today.

Read passage (V.11-15) (V.16-21)

Opening Prayer

The Proclamation of Praise

INVESTIGATE

V.11 ** As Paul now continues his masterful presentation of the gospel, from where does he draw support for the idea of putting your faith in Jesus Christ?

From "the Scripture" Paul brings the evidence that "whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed".

** What is so significant about Paul referring to Scripture?

It is the only source of truth that we have and it is completely sufficient for all of our spiritual need, man's opinion is of no value! cf. 2Peter 1:20-21, 2Timothy 3:16-17

** To what Scripture does Paul refer?

Isaiah 28:16 tell us of a "costly cornerstone" that God was going to lay in Zion for the foundation and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.

By comparison, in Acts 4:12, the apostle Peter proclaimed "...and there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."

V.12 ** Before we move into verse 12 of Romans, chapter 10, let's review where the heart of the apostle Paul is coming from. What two groups has he been comparing in this letter and how were their methods of "salvation" different?

Jews (Nationally speaking) - Salvation by works. cf. Romans 9:32

Gentiles - Who said that salvation came by grace through faith. cf. Romans 9:30, Ephesians 2:8-9

** Now, here in verse 12, with so many differences culturally and religiously between those two groups, how is it that God perceives them?

"..there is no distinction between Jew and Greek.."

** What do the two groups have in common?

"...the same Lord is Lord of all..." Jesus Christ is Lord over all of His creation, no matter how many ways that creation tries to distinguish itself.

cf. Deuteronomy 10:17, Acts 10:34-35, Galatians 3:28, Ephesians 6:9, Romans 2:11

** What is the one thing that all mankind has in common?

Romans 3:23 - We are all sinners, who need Christ!

** How does Jesus want to respond to us?

He wants to be "abounding in riches" toward us. cf. Ephesians 1:3

** What is the only requirement for receiving those riches?

"...for all who call upon Him..."

** What is that phrase synonymous with?

Salvation! Being born-again by the Holy Spirit, to eternal life in Jesus Christ. Calling upon the Lord as our only means of redemption and deliverance from the consequences of sin.

Remember Acts 4:12!

V.13 ** How do we know that anyone who relies upon Jesus Christ for salvation, will be saved?

Scripture guarantees it! cf. Joel 2:32, Acts 2:21

V.14 ** How does this profound Biblical truth establish the need for our "**Proclamation of Praise**"?

For someone to "call upon the Lord", they must believe in Him. Before they can believe in Him, they must have heard about Him. In order for them to hear, someone must "proclaim" the truth about Jesus Christ to them.

Paul uses the word "kerusso", translated here as preacher, which literally means "to be a herald" or to "proclaim".

** What message does every believer in Jesus Christ have to share with the world?

Our lifestyle of praise should be manifest in a heart of thanksgiving toward Christ for the forgiveness of our sin and the eternal life we have inherited with Him.

V.15 ** By what authority do we Christians go into the world and proclaim this good news?

By the fact that we have been "sent" by God! cf. Matthew 28:18-20, 2Timothy 4:2

** How is this "proclamation" different in scope from our "**Profession of Praise**" that we saw last time?

At our salvation we believe in our heart that God raised Christ Jesus from the dead (the gospel) and we profess Jesus to be our Lord (our response). That "**Profession of Praise**" is reflective upon the work of Christ on our behalf on the cross and is more personal in nature.

The "**Proclamation of Praise**" is the proclaiming of the gospel to the whole world! Here is where our lifestyle of praise overtly reaches out into the lives of the world around us.

** How attractive, in the eyes of the Lord, is the one who will share the good news of the gospel?

Paul borrows from Isaiah 52:7, where the prophet spoke of the good news of being delivered from the Babylonian captivity, and he is saying that those who will carry the good news to the world are indeed "beautiful". cf. Romans 1:15

V.16 ** Even if we were perfectly faithful to always proclaim the gospel, are there going to be times when people do not want to hear or heed the message?

Yes, tragically, "...they did not all heed the glad tidings...." Again, Paul borrows from Isaiah, in the prophecy about the Suffering Servant, he asks "Who has believed our report"? A sad lament over the sinners who refuse to respond to God's grace.

** Who is going to believe our report?

Those that God has chosen to hear, believe and repent!
All see - Acts 13:44-48, 5:30-32, 2Timothy 2:24-26

V.17 ** So, what is the process, how does one come to the knowledge of the truth?

"...faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ..." Always, salvation comes from hearing and understanding the saving message of Jesus Christ and not in the intuition, mystical experience, meditation, speculation, or philosophy of the world's system.

V.18 ** As he continues his concern for Israel's salvation, what rhetorical question does Paul put forth?

"...surely they have never heard, have they?"

** What is the tragic answer?

Yes they have! Quoting from the Septuagint [Greek] version of Psalm 19:4 Paul says, "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world". The voice and words represent the testimony of the heavens. All of creation was used to witness to Israel of the power of God and yet they refused to listen and are without excuse!

V.19 ** How does Paul continue his line of rhetorical questioning?

"...surely Israel did not know, did they?"

** Again, what is the tragic answer?

Yes they did! Some 1500 years prior to the writing of this epistle, Moses recorded the prophecy that Israel would become jealous over the Gentiles receiving the salvation (Deuteronomy 32:21) that they had mistakenly thought belonged to only them.

V.20 ** Isaiah also spoke boldly about the Gentiles coming to salvation by God's grace, how do we know it was not because of our own effort?

Because Isaiah said that we "sought" not after God and "did not ask" for a relationship with God!

V.21 ** The mercy and grace of God to offer the "good news" to the Gentiles is unfathomable by those of us who have been saved through faith in Christ. Equally difficult to grasp, is the tragic error of the nation of Israel who failed to receive God on His terms, but instead reduced His glory to a set of rules that they could keep. What was the heart of the problem?

The nation of Israel was made up of a "disobedient" and "obstinate" people.

[**apeitheo**] - lit. "to disobey"

[**antilego**] - lit. "contradict, to speak against"

Their's was a lifestyle of living in contradiction to what they knew to be the expressed will of God.

** How has God continued to respond to the nation of Israel?

"All the day long I have stretched out My hands..."

God's loving care, protection and provision would continually be there, even though they would repeatedly oppose Him. All see - Acts 7:51-53

EXTRICATE

** What is our duty before Christ, so that the world might be able to "call upon the Lord"?

We have been sent for the "**Proclamation of Praise**" into the world, so that they may hear and having heard, believe and in believing, call upon the name of the Lord for the salvation of their souls!

DELINEATE

** What were the two characteristics in verse 21 which formed the heart of the problem for the nation of Israel and are to be avoided by us in our walk with the Lord?

They were "disobedient" and "obstinate" in their response to God.

EVALUATE

** Is your life today in harmony with the Word of God so that the good news of the gospel can be heard and believed through your "**Proclamation of Praise**"?

ACTIVATE

** Are you willing to ask the Lord to provide opportunities for you to proclaim the gospel? Please prepare a concise presentation of your testimony (2 minutes) for others to hear. It should include what it means to have a saving relationship with Christ.

Closing Prayer