

LESSON 22 10:14-21

The glorious gospel message that leads to righteousness, is a result of salvation by faith in the heart, and confession of the mouth. It is indiscriminate of race, nationality, or ethnicity. A person's trust in the work of God the Son on the cross is key in atonement, and their trust in the resurrection of Him from the grave is key in completing our hope in salvation. But this seems to prompt logical questions which Paul now asks.

THE BLESSED EVANGELIST

Questions:

1. How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed?
2. How are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?
3. How are they to hear without someone preaching?
4. How are they to preach unless they are sent?

A Quote:

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news.” – Isaiah 52:7

Isaiah 52 – An interpretation conundrum:

- 1) What gospel is being preached in Isaiah 52:7? The redemption of Jerusalem. But which Jerusalem is in view, the old city, the headquarters of the millennial reign of Christ (Zech. 8:3-5)? Or the new city, the one we see as heaven (Rev. 21:2)? Conservative commentators take the view that this is the old city.
- 2) What gospel is being preached in Romans 10:15? The salvation of humanity. So, is Paul using faulty hermeneutics by quoting a passage and using it out of context (he is talking about human salvation, Isaiah is talking about the establishment of Jerusalem)? Does he have a differing interpretation of Isaiah 52:7 (he sees it as the new city that John describes)? Or, is he producing a typological argument (he views the restoration of Jerusalem as a type of human salvation)? It is obvious that the first one is not the case. Number three seems like a forced understanding since Paul doesn't set it up like a typical type. I like option 2 because it seems consistent with Paul's argument in Romans, keeping the focus on eternity.

Conclusion: The evangelist is beautiful, not because of his appearance, but because of his message.

THE BLUNT PROPHETS

Isaiah:

“Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?”

Why would Isaiah ask this? Because, “not all have obeyed the gospel,” even though they have heard. But, you can't believe unless you hear, for “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” Well, if there is no belief, Paul asks, “have they not heard? Indeed they have.

David:

“Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.”
Well if the message has gone forth, and there is still no belief, then, Paul asks, “Did Israel not understand?”

Moses:

“I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.”

Aha. God intended to cause His unbelieving people jealous through the belief and inclusion of the Gentiles. By God’s guidance, Isaiah makes this bold statement about the Gentile nations:

Isaiah:

“I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me.”

But of Israel, God’s chosen people, God says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.”

Conclusion:

The gospel has spread out all over the planet, brought by lovely preachers. However, the writers of the O.T. even predicted the reception of the gospel by the Gentiles, and its rejection by the Jews. And so, we preach. Winning the lost of any race, nationality, or ethnicity.