



"How are They to Hear?"
Romans 10:8-17 (NIV)
Dr. Bill White, Jr.
August 2, 2026

⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, "that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

¹¹ As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

¹⁶ But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" ¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Let us look at this magnificent letter that Paul wrote to the church at Rome, and let us take this out of its ancient context and find relevance

for us today. It is important for us to note that Paul was addressing the issue of the Jewish community and matters of faith in Jesus Christ.

⁹ *If you confess/declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* Paul would have us know that confessing Christ is as truly indispensable as believing in him, so that we must have a saving knowledge of him and know him in our hearts.

Now this knowledge and belief are not just intellectual in nature. This knowledge is deeper than that, and transcends intellectual knowledge, and goes to a spiritual level of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. A daily walk, in communion and fellowship with him. You can read all the books in the world and still not know him. You can even have all kinds of degrees (even from seminaries), and not truly know him. You can come to church every Sunday, or every other Sunday as may be the case. You can usher, teach Sunday School, sing in the choir, and even preach, and if you don't know Jesus Christ, and the power of his resurrection in the pardoning of your sins, then your knowledge of him is superficial and will not give you access through the heavenly gate into the heavenly kingdom.

⁹ *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* Now this knowledge of Christ, according to Paul comes by hearing. Now what about those Jews who did not believe? Did they not believe because they had not heard? Paul says no, they heard, but did not heed the gospel. What about those folk who go to church Sunday after Sunday, and attend several other ministries and programs a week? Do they

not truly believe because they have not heard? No, they just don't heed, and live out the gospel message.

Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preacher. Paul says, in essence, there is no excuse for not believing. There is no excuse for not confessing. There is no excuse for not loving your neighbor. There is no excuse for not possessing the mind of Christ. There is no excuse for not treating everybody right. For you have heard the message from the prophets, from Jesus Christ, from the apostles and from the ones that God has called to proclaim the Good News, the preacher.

How shall they hear? How are they to hear? If people are to hear, there must be someone who proclaims the truth. If they are to hear, there must be someone, whom God knew like Jeremiah and called in their womb to stand and witness for God. **If** they are to hear, there **must** be someone, a preacher, a professor of the Gospel, one who professes and proclaims a lively word out of their own personality under the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit. **If** they are to hear, God *must* call a **preacher** to preach in season and out of season. A preacher, who will preach when it's popular to preach and preach when it's unpopular to preach. A preacher, who will preach until hearts and minds are convicted and lives are changed. A preacher who will preach when the Spirit says preach. A preacher, not a charlatan, not a politician, not a false prophet, but a preacher who is called and sent by no one but God, who will preach until the power of heaven comes down. How shall they hear without a preacher?

"Go preach the gospel saith the Lord. Bid the whole earth my grace receive; explain to them my sacred word, Bid them believe, obey and live. I'll make my great commission known, And ye shall prove my gospel true, by all the works that I have done, And all the wonders ye shall do. Go heal the sick, go raise the dead, Go cast out devils in My name; nor let my prophets be afraid, Tho men reproach and will blaspheme."

How shall they hear without a preacher? ¹³ for, *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Are you saved today? Are you delivered from the snare of sin, death and the grave? Have you confessed the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal savior? Whether you are worshipping online or in this sanctuary, confess and receive Jesus today and be saved.

May we pray. We thank you, merciful and loving God, for your Word that has been proclaimed through the power and presence of your Holy Spirit. Grant that we, having heard and received your Word in the good soil of our hearts, have already confessed Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior or do so now.

Let the Church say, "Amen."