

“I Have Stretched Out MY Hands”
Romans 10:1-21
3/19/23
Message 19

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “I Have Stretched Out MY Hands”

- **Illustration – A Pardon**

- In 1829 Two men
 - George Wilson and James Porter, robbed a United States mail carrier.
 - Both were captured and tried in a court of law.
 - In May 1830 both men were found guilty
 - Both men were sentence to death by hanging
 - James Porter was executed on schedule
- George Wilson – Was NOT
 - Because of public sentiment against capital punishment
 - A movement began to secure a presidential pardon for Wilson (first offense)
 - Eventually Andrew Jackson intervened with a pardon.
- Amazingly, Wilson refused it.
 - Since this had never happened before
 - The Supreme Court was asked to rule on whether someone could indeed refuse a presidential pardon.
- Chief Justice John Marshall handed down the court's decision:

- *"A pardon is a parchment whose only value must be determined by the receiver of the pardon. It has no value apart from that which the receiver gives to it. George Wilson has refused to accept the pardon. We cannot conceive why he would do so, but he has. Therefore, George Wilson must die."*

- A Pardon, declared the Supreme Court, must not only be granted, it must be accepted.

- George Wilson was hanged.

- **Chapter 9-11**

- Is ALL about God's Dealing with Israel

- Who has been granted a special relationship with God

- Given opportunity for a PARDON

- But has so far for the most part has rejected that pardon

- Sadly NOT just Israel but all the nations

- **Quick Review**

- **The Book of Romans divides into 3 sections**

- **Chapters 1-8 - Deal with the Principles of Salvation**

- Romans 1-3:20

- All Have SINNED (Condemnation)

- Romans 3:21 - 5

- BUT NOW (Our Position In Christ – Justification)

- Romans 6-8

- Our Position In Christ – Sanctification
- Chapter 6 - Victory over SIN
- Chapter 7 – Sanctification Does not come from the LAW or SELF
- Chapter 8 - It's All about the Holy Spirit
 - The Spirit - Was mentioned only once in chapters 1–7
 - Chapter 8 - Used 19 times
 - Starts with - NO Commendation For The Believer!
 - The Middle – The Holy Spirit is with us in Struggles
 - End With – No Separation - More Than Conquerors
- **Chapters 12-16 - Deal with the Practical's in Salvation.**
 - Since we are saved
 - This is how we should live
- **That leaves us - Chapters 9-11**
 - Which many people have wondered why did Paul put these chapters in here
 - It seems like a diversion
 - Some have said they don't belong here at all –
 - That they are parenthetical
 - But the REALITY - Romans 9-11 Is not an Interruption

- But an illustration of God's Faithfulness and His Sovereignty in Salvation – with the Jews

- **Chapter 9 – The Sovereignty – Last week**

- 1st God is Sovereign
 - He is in Charge of the universe
 - He can do as He pleases
 - He is...
 - ALPHA & OMEGA - Beginning & End
 - HOLY
 - PERFECT
 - GOOD
 - IMMUTABLE (Unchanging)
 - CAN NEVER do anything wrong, unjust, or unrighteous.
 - AKA = GOD IS GOD - & We're NOT
- 2nd Our Response
 - NEVER
 - Be Afraid of this TRUTH
 - Apologize for this TRUTH
 - This Glorious truth and should cause us to Worship

- Personal LOVE IT

- Beating and broken by this world
- The world promised all these wonderful things – BUT Lied
- The Reality that changed my life there is a GOD who is Sovereign – in control – who never changes
- Filled with HOPE – Ever Lasting Hope
- I Love the BLACK AND WHITE statement – love the boundaries
- I NEVER wanted to change God – I wanted Him to Change ME

- Sadly – WARNING

- The Church of America would do well NEVER to forget this

- 3rd The Mystery of His Sovereignty – God Chooses

- God Chooses!
- BUT yet we still choose
- *Wiersbe; “A seminary professor once said to me, “Try to explain election, and you may lose your mind; but explain it away and you will lose your soul!”*

- **Chapter 10 – God’s Present Dealings with Israel – Today**

- Showing His Salvation
- MOST of Israel has Rejection

▪ **Chapter 11 – Next Week (Lord Willing)**

- Speaks of His Promises to Israel – Israel's Future
- All of which reveal God's Faithfulness in dealing with the nation of Israel
- And an illustration of His Faithfulness to us!

• **This Moring we will see 3 Important Truths regarding God's present dealing with Israel**

- The Reason vs. 1-13
- The Remedy vs. 14-17
- The Results vs. 18-21

The Reason vs. 1-13

• **First: They Didn't See Their Need For Salvation v. 1**

- **1st Brethren v. 1a**

Romans 10:1 (NKJV)

1 Brethren, *my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.*

▪ **Paul us NOT bitter nor Angry with his brethren**

- Stumbled
 - Paul does NOT REJOICE
 - That they have stumbled at that stumbling stone (Romans 9:32)

Romans 9:32–33 (NKJV)

32 *Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.*

33 *As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."*

- Caused GREAT HARM to him
 - Paul's Heart is nothing BUT LOVE
- Lesson –
 - We have a problem if we rejoice in any one who stumbles
- **2nd My heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel v. 1b**

Romans 10:1 (NKJV)

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.

- **Paul's heart's desire also translated into Action**
 - PRAYER to God for Israel – Not Rejoiced
 - Paul didn't just "CARE" he PRAYED
 - He took the things he longed for, his desires, and he turned them into prayer.
- **Lesson – PRAYER is CRITICAL**
 - We have a heart for certain thing to be done
 - Loved ones saved
 - Country Saved
 - Loved ones healed
 - How important that we make those our prayers.
 - That we turn our desires into our prayers.
 - Many Opportunities to PRAY at Calvary CP

- House of Prayer
- Encourage everyone to show up – even if you don't want to pray out loud

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

33 *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

• **Second: They Stumbled Over Their Zeal For God v. 2**

Romans 10:2 (NKJV)

2 *For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.*

- **1st I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God**
 - **Paul will readily recognize that Israel has a zeal for God**
 - But he also sees that it is zeal not according to Knowledge.
 - Illustration
 - Paul himself before his conversion
 - Paul had Zeal for the Jewish Religion
 - Saul of Tarsus was a notorious persecutor of Christians before Jesus confronted him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-20).
 - **Many HAVE Zeal for “god”**
 - Orthodox Jews
 - Cults
 - Mormons
 - Jehovah Witnesses

- Yes - Sadly even some Christians
- Lesson
 - Question do we have ZEAL without Knowledge?
 - Religious people – even sincere Christians – go astray
 - They have plenty of zeal but little knowledge!
 - The TRUTH is this can happen to ALL of us
 - People can be very zealous in their...
 - 1st Religious Practices
 - I never miss church
 - I have my routine
 - But Yet can still be FAR from God
 - 2nd Religious Goodness
 - Look at ALL the Good works I do
 - Look at all the service I do
 - They feel that their religious 'goodness' is enough to find favor with God
 - Churches
 - That this happens to become
 - Organization
 - Lose being an organism

- Social Clubs
- Networking
- Look great BUT in Reality have lost the power of God's Spirit
- Make sure our ZEAL is in the right place
 - Don't attempt to serve God in the flesh
 - Always in the POWER of His Spirit

• **Third: They Were Proud & Self-Righteous v. 3**

- **1st For They Being Ignorant Of God's Righteousness v. 3a**

Romans 10:3 (NKJV)

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

- They were ignorant of God's righteousness
 - God's Righteousness
 - Imputes righteousness on the principle of FAITH and NOT of WORKS
 - Israel Believed
 - Righteousness Comes from WORKS not Faith
 - Their zeal in keeping the Law & their traditions, they believed they were achieving the righteousness of God
 - They went about trying to produce a righteousness of their own by law-keeping.

- **2nd Establish their own righteousness v. 3b**

Romans 10:3 (NKJV)

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

- Having not submitted to God's righteousness
 - Israel had a lack of knowledge!
 - But that wasn't their only problem.
 - They also had a MORAL PROBLEM
 - They have not submitted to the righteousness of God.
 - As a result – they created their “own” Righteousness
- Lesson –
 - Legalistic People
 - Can be like this
 - Always attempting earn favor with God by doing RIGHT
 - Sadly - They even put that burden on others
 - Legalism can actually reflect a person who is not right with God morally!
 - Working in the flesh to be righteous BUT their hearts have NOT submitted to God

• Fourth: They Misunderstood The Scriptures vs. 4-13

- **1st Christ is the end of the law v. 4**

Romans 10:4 (NKJV)

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

- Jesus is the end of the law for those who believe.
- HOW?!
 - The law ends for the believer in the sense that
 - Our obedience to the LAW is no longer the basis for our relationship with God
 - God is NOW the Bases for our righteousness
- Illustration – Paul own life

Philippians 3:3–11 (NKJV)

3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

• **NOTE:**

- The law has not come to an end in the sense of no longer reflecting God's standard or no longer showing us our need for a Savior.

○ **2nd The Man Who Does Those things shall live by them v. 5**

Romans 10:5 (NKJV)

5 For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, “The man who does those things shall live by them.”

- Paul look at Sinai
 - Quotation here is from Leviticus 18:5
 - The law said do this & live –
 - THE Problem is men can’t do it
- Paul’s point – Again
 - The LAW cant bring Righteousness

○ **3rd But the righteousness of faith v. 6-7**

Romans 10:6–8 (NKJV)

6 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above)
7 or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

- Paul quotes Deut. 30 Moses’ Farwell Address
 - Given to a new generation was about to enter the Promised Land.
 - He reminds them that living with & for God wasn’t hard.
 - Obey be BLESSED Disobey be Cursed
- Paul’s Point

- Salvation isn't an difficult labor that requires massive effort on our part
- That only a select few have the strength & skill to accomplish.
- No – God is near & salvation ready.
- He's already done all the hard work; all we need do is receive it.
- It is based on Jesus
- We don't have to "work" to get Jesus.
- We believe and receive.

○ **4th If You Confess with Your Mouth v. 9**

Romans 10:9 (NKJV)

9 that 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.

▪ **Confess with your mouth:**

- Confess – Greek: Homologeō
- Means:
 - To say the same thing as another, i.e. to agree with, declare; to profess; to declare openly
 - This is something you say with your "mouth"
 - Confession has the idea of agreeing with.
- When we Confess the Lord Jesus
 - We agree with what God said about Jesus

- With what Jesus said about Himself.
- That He is the Messiah
- That His work on the cross is the only way of salvation for mankind
- NOTE Confess with your mouth
 - Critical to make a public confess of salvation
- **Believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead:**
 - Believe – Greek: Pisteuo
 - Means:
 - To think to be true, to be persuaded of / This is something you do with your “heart”.
 - Believe in your heart
 - NOT just an intellectual agreement with the facts of the cross and the resurrection is not enough.
 - IT MUST BE DEEP WITHIN your SOUL
 - A Change of LIFE
 - Not enough to say it only with words it has to be seen in your life
- **5th For with the heart one believes unto righteousness v. 10**

Romans 10:10 (NKJV)

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- These two together (belief and confession) result in righteousness and salvation.

- We should not ignore how shockingly simple this is
- Whoever calls upon the name of the LORD shall be saved

○ **6th The Scripture says v. 11**

Romans 10:11 (NKJV)

11 *For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."*

- The thought of public confession of Christ might bring fears of shame
 - BUT the opposite is true.
 - Our confession of Him on earth leads to His confession of us in heaven.
 - Ours is a hope that will never be disappointed

○ **7th All who call upon Him vs. 12-13**

Romans 10:12–13 (NKJV)

12 *For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.*

13 *For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."*

- NO difference between
 - All our sinners and ALL need to be saved the same way (Romans 3:23)
- NOTE - The emphasis on human responsibility (WHOEVER) v. 13

The Remedy vs. 14-17

- **First: How shall they hear without a preacher?**

Romans 10:14–15 (NKJV)

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?*

15 *And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”*

○ **1st How shall they hear without a preacher?**

- Someone Needs to preach it!
 - 1st Why Did God choose mankind to bring His Message
 - Why not Angels or Himself
 - God choose mankind to bring His wonderful truth
 - 2nd There is a since in which all of us are called to preach this truth NOT JUST pastors
 - 3rd Preaching the Gospel is VERY Important
 - It must never get lost in organization, social club, social justice
 - Sadly - It takes a back seat to these issues in our world today

○ **2nd And how shall they preach unless they are sent?**

- Preachers must be sent – both by God and the Christian community at large.
 - The idea of missionaries here

○ **3rd How beautiful are the feet:**

- No wonder those who preach have beautiful feet –
 - They partner with God for the salvation of men.

- The feet speak of activity, motion, and progress, and those who are active and moving in the work of preaching the GOSPEL have beautiful feet.
- **4th Glad tidings of good things:**
 - Salvation
 - The GREATEST need mankind has
 - Not Social justice

• **Second: But they have not all obeyed the gospel v. 16**

Romans 10:16 (NKJV)

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our report?"

- **Paul quotes (Isa. 53)**
 - Who has believed our report?...
 - The question calls for the answer,
 - Sadly "Not many." When the announcement of the Messiah's First Advent was heralded, not many responded.
- **2nd Lesson**
 - Not all are going to respond.
 - Don't get discouraged.
 - Don't twist arms.
 - Your responsibility is simply to share the message.
 - What they do with the message is up to their free will and the Holy Spirit!

- **Third: So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God v. 17**

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- **1st Faith comes through hearing by the word of God.**
 - Though Israel heard, they did not exercise saving faith in Christ
 - Making them (and us) all the more responsible.
- **2nd Lesson –**
 - Importance of PREACHING and TEACHING God's WORD
 - Note it DOES not say
 - Faith comes by...
 - Programs
 - Outreaches
 - Social Justice
 - Fellowship
 - Activities
 - Organization
 - Fund Raisers
 - So Critical we never forget the POWER of God's Word
 - Illustration 2 Kings 22 Josiah
 - Here at Calvary CP

- Strong emphases on teaching God's Word
- Number one focus
- Pastor Chuck Modeled this for us
 - It was KEY to the Jesus MOVEMENT

The Results vs. 18-21

• First: Israel is Guilty v. 18

Romans 10:18 (NKJV)

18 *But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world."*

- **1st Their sound has gone out to all the earth:**
 - This quotation from Psalm 19:4
 - Proves that the word of the gospel went forth and Israel heard it.
 - This makes them more accountable for their rejection of the good news.

• Second: The Message Goes To The Gentiles vs. 19-20

Romans 10:19–20 (NKJV)

19 *But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation."*

20 *But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me."*

- **1st I will provoke you to jealousy:**
 - God told Israel that He would bring others close to Him and make them jealous.

- Yet Israel ignored this word also, making them more accountable.
- The testimony of Isaiah 65:1

Isaiah 65:1 (NKJV)

1 *"I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am,' To a nation that was not called by My name.*

- THE GENTILES

- Our purpose is to make Israel desire to come to CHRIST

- **Third: God Still Reaches Out To The Jew v. 21**

Romans 10:21 (NKJV)

21 *But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."*

- **1st A disobedient and contrary people:**

- Disobedient – Greek: Apeitheo
- Means: ("not" + "persuade") – not to allow one's self to be persuaded; to refuse belief and obedience
- Israel has TURNED their backs on GOD
- They have a part of GOD (The LAW)
- They are happy with only a part
- BUT to have a part – is to miss everything

- **2nd Lesson - God's patience**

- Paul is quoting from Isaiah 65:2

Isaiah 65:2 (NKJV)

2 I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in a way that is not good, According to their own thoughts;

- We might look at this and think that God has no room for stubborn people.
 - We might tend to look at this and think that God is done with the nation of Israel.
- Think again.

Romans 11:1 (NKJV)

1 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

Closing

- Romans 9-11 Show us God's Heart for Israel – He is Faithful with them – He will be Faithfull with US