

**Have you responded to the Gospel? Are you sharing the Gospel?**

Romans 10:14-16

*“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’ <sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?’”*

Paul is grieving over the nation Israel’s rejection of Jesus as Messiah. He suggests through a series of questions that perhaps the argument could be made that Israel did not believe in Jesus as Messiah because they had never really heard about Jesus—thus they were not to blame for rejecting Him. But a quick survey of Scripture and Israel’s history confirms that except for a remnant of Jewish people who did accept Jesus as Messiah / Savior (9:27), Israel rejected Jesus—in fact, they violently rejected Jesus. Israel heard the message of Jesus the Messiah from:

- **Their own Jewish prophets** – *“Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One.”* (Acts 7:52)
- **Jesus Himself** - *“He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.”* (Jn.1:11)
- **The Apostles preaching in Jerusalem – the population center of Jewish people where the events of Jesus’ death and resurrection occurred** – *“They [the religious leaders representing the Jewish people] called them [Apostle Peter and John] and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.”* (Acts 4:18)

So, Paul concludes that the argument that Israel had never heard the Gospel could not be used to excuse Israel's rejection of Jesus as Messiah and Savior.

Paul presents the sequences of steps – or rhythm – that occurs in the process of someone coming to faith in Christ. He lists 5 steps in reverse order, and there are 2 people involved:

## 1. The Receiver of the Message (v.14):

**Step 5: "Call"** (v.14a) – Not a casual call, but a desperate, urgent request for salvation.

**Step 4: "Believe"** (v.14b) – Used synonymously with "obey" (v.16); We must come to come to God obediently in His way – through faith in Christ – not our way.

John 14:6 *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

Acts 4:12 *"There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

**Step 3: "Hear"** (v.14c) – Recognizing the importance of a message and responding appropriately. Jesus often warned about *how* we hear (Luke 8:18).

## 2. The Messenger of the Message (v.14d-16):

**Step 2: "Preach"** (v.14d) – To proclaim; make the Gospel known

**Step 1: "Sent"** (v.15a)

The Great Commission: Matthew 28:19 *"Go"* = *"As you are already going"*

- Localize it – Make the Gospel known in whatever corner of the culture God has entrusted to you (family, job, neighborhood, etc.).
- Personalize it: What you can't do for everyone, do for one.