Series: General

Message: Pretty Feet Romans 10\_13-15

Text: Romans 10:13-15; Hebrews 6:19

Theme:

Date: June 3, 2018

Location: Christ Community EFC

A while back I asked both Pastor Peter and Deb what their life verse was. Deb said she had a couple verses but the first one to come to mind was Romans 10, in particular verses 13-15.

In fact Pastor Peter preached from this text a few months ago as he shared how God had used this text, at the Challenge Youth Conference two years ago, to awaken in both Deb and Pastor Peter a calling to live sent…to live out the reality that we as Christians are all called to live as if we are sent to go into all the world and preach the gospel.

**If you would please turn in your Bibles to Romans chapter 10, page 946 of the pew Bible.**

Paul writes the book of Romans at the end of his third missionary journey as he is headed back to Jerusalem.

He has tried on a number of occasions to visit the Christians in Rome, but has so far been prevented.

Though Paul, the great missionary church planter, had not yet been to Rome there is, by this point, a large number of Christians in Rome.

So if Paul had not been to Rome, than the question is how did it come to be that there were so many Christians already there?

Well, first of all, back in Acts 2, we are told what happened on the day of Pentecost.

Now, there were three major Pilgrimage Festivals. Many Jews would come from all over the Roman Empire to be in Jerusalem to celebrate these festivals.

There was the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) in the fall, late September early October. This fall festival celebrated the 40 years the Israelites lived in tents wondering in the wilderness.

Passover, we now call Easter because this we when Jesus was crucified and rose from the grace.

And then there was Pentecost. Pentecost, the feast of weeks which came 7 weeks after Passover. This feast reminded the Jews of when Moses received the Law at Mt. Sinai after leaving Egypt.

So it was Pentecost, 40 days after the crucifixion. By this time Jesus had returned to heaven.

Then the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit. They did many miracles, and spoke in different languages so that those who had traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost heard the apostles speaking in their own languages.

In Acts: 2:10 were are told there were “**visitors from Rome**” in the crowd that day. Some of whom, no doubt, were a part of the 3000 who accepted Christ as their savior when Peter preached.

As they returned to Rome these new believers in Jesus Christ shared their new found faith.

Other believers migrated to Rome through the years since Pentecost, for Rome was a magnet that drew people from all over the empire.

Some were forced to leave Jerusalem or homes as persecution against the Christians broke out and they ended up in Rome.

Others, like Prisca and Aquila, traveled to Rome for business.

But whatever the reason they went to Rome, whether they were returning home or fleeing their homes because of prosecution, or going for business these new believers shared their faith as they went.

From the gospel’s perspective they didn’t just happen to go to Rome. They were, in fact, sent to Rome…and they shared their faith.

A sister in Christ and coworker of Paul, by the name of Phoebe (Rom. 16:2), was planning a trip to Rome.

So Paul takes advantage of this opportunity to send this letter with her to the Christians in Rome.

He writes to let them know, first and foremost, that he hasn’t forgotten them and hopes to visit them after returning to Jerusalem.

(Little did he know that he would go to Rome but, he would go as a prisoner facing trail.)

Paul also wrote this letter to Christians in Rome to present a complete and detailed statement of the gospel message.

Paul was eager “**to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome**” (1:15) and he wanted to make sure they understood the gospel.

Keep in mind, many of those who traveled to Rome were babes in Christ themselves. They had a very basic understanding of the gospel message and how the gospel would impact every area of their lives.

So, in the first part of this letter, Paul spells out the righteousness of God and that God is right to condemn us who are unrighteousn.

We are all unrighteous. We have all sinned and fallen short of what God intended for us.

But then Paul goes on to explain how, through faith in Christ Jesus, the guilt and punishment due us for our sin, our unrighteousness is transferred over to Christ.

And the righteousness of God, through Christ’s death burial and resurrection is given to us.

In other words, Paul clearly and fully spells out the gospel.

Then starting in chapter 6, Paul begins to describe the impact the gospel has on our lives—the process of sanctification.

Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit in us, starting at the moment of our salvation to transform us, from the inside out, into the image of Christ.

In our sin, all that we are was marred—twisted by sin.

Through the process of sanctification the reality of our salvation is worked out into every area of our lives and the marks of sin are replaced with the image of Christ.

The result of this sanctification is, just as it was with the early believers who went to Rome, is that we are sent into this world to reflect Christ and bring the gospel to all people.

Knowing Growing and **Showing** the Love of Christ!

That brings us to our text here in Romans 10:13: “**For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**

This calling on the name of the Lord is in reference to everything Paul has written about in the first nine chapters of Romans.

Our guilt, our sin and our inability to save ourselves, coupled with the finished work of Christ on the cross to completely eradicate that guilt.

The free gift of God that we can be reconciled with God by faith in His Son and the promise of our restoration through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit.

**14 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?**

Here is the crux of this passage. How will they…

* those who have not yet believed in Jesus Christ,
* those who are still enslaved to their sins,
* those who will have to suffer the judgment and condemnation of a Holy God because of their own sin,
* those who, without Christ’s saving work are destined to spend a Christ-less eternity apart from God

How will they be saved if they never hear the name of Jesus Christ, the gospel message?

Jesus says there is no other name under heaven by which we are saved! Do you believe this!? Then what will you do with the gospel message?

The Romans, as they went home to Rome, shared with others what they knew.

The persecuted Christians, being driven from their homes because of their faith risked everything to tell others the truth of who Jesus Christ is and what He accomplished on the cross.

Those just going about their daily business, going to market, took the gospel message with them as they went.

John 20:21 Jesus said to His disciples, His followers: “**Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.**”

Two years ago when Pastor Peter and Deb were with the youth group at the last Challenge conference, it was as there they came to understand this truth in a new way, in a personal challenge to live life in light of the gospel message and the truth that God has sent each of us into the world to tell others of Christ.

Initially, Pastor Peter and Deb did not know what that was going to mean or where this was going to take them.

But they opened there hearts and their hands and said “Lord led us and we will go. We will live sent.”

What would it mean for you? What would it look like in your life if you were to say to the Lord “Here I am I…send me.”

“You sent your son into the world to save me, I will go wherever you send me to tell others of Him.”

Would God send you to Baltimore? Maybe.

Would God send you home to your family, your neighbors? I’d say He would start there.

Would God send you to work tomorrow, to those co-workers, that boss? I bet He would send you there.

Would God send you to the hospital? I will never forget Chad, down at Riverside Hospital getting treatment for his cancer. He knew that he was not there by accident.

For Chad it was never a question as to why he had cancer, but understanding that God sent him to Riverside the only question for Chad was whom did God want him to share the gospel with while he was there.

While getting chemo Chad handed out gospel bracelets and shared the gospel every opportunity he was given.

Last week, while Pastor Peter was preaching, he was living sent when he sensed the Spirit say to him to offer an opportunity to receive Christ at the end of his message and Karen prayed to receive Christ as her savior.

Pastor Peter and Deb. It has been such a great privilege and honor be a part of your journey.

I have the Connection Card you filled out the first Sunday you visited us. To the question “How did you hear about Christ Community”; you wrote “Internet and Ashland Seminary.”

That was when we had posted the part-time youth pastor position.

It may have been the posting you saw, but there is no doubt in my mind that it was God who sent you to us.

And I thank God that He did. Seven years! What a journey we have had together.

We began more in a mentoring role but, over the years as you have grown, we have become co-laborers for Christ in the truest sense.

We have become friends, and brothers in Christ. When you first came to us you were almost apologetic for the lack of experience you had.

But I asked you, are you willing to learn. And you have always kept a level of humility and a willingness to learn and grow.

None of us do life, or ministry perfectly. But you have been willing to learn from your mistakes and have worked to do your best and honor Christ in all you do.

As your pastor I have always know and trusted your loyalty to me and to the leadership of this church. No matter what I know you got my back.

You have earned my trust, and I have never doubted that.

Your commitment to Christ and His church has been evident in the way you have faithfully served over these past seven years.

Together you and Deb have been a lasting force here at Christ Community.

Deb your support for your husband and his ministry is a power witness of your own commitment in following Christ.

Apart from your involvement in Peter’s ministry, you have had your own ministry, or should I more accurately say minist**ries** in your time here.

You have given and volunteered in so many ways. I can’t even begin to guess at the countless hours you have given to Christ as you have served this church family. Thank you.

Pastor Peter and Deb, thank you both for sharing your journey, your ministry, you love and friendship with Dana and me, with this church and our families, with the youth and children.

Thank you for showing us what it means to live sent and to be open and obedient to the Lord’s leading.

When I asked Pastor Peter what his life verse was he said, without hesitation, Hebrews 6:19 which says “**We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain**”.

May the gospel, the eternal hope anchor your soul, give you peace, and remain the center of all you do, in life and in ministry.

I charge you to remain committed to proclaiming the gospel in all that you do, where ever you serve, whenever opportunity is given.

Christ is sending Pastor Peter and Deb but we, their church family affirm their calling and send them out from us.

Paul goes on to write in verse 15: “**And how are they to preach unless they are sent?**

Sent—not pushed out/cut off. Sent with ongoing support, much like when the government send our troops into harm’s way.

Behind our frontline troops is a whole line of support personnel keeping the supply lines open, making sure the troops have what they need.

Peter and Deb are the ones being sent to serve in Baltimore but we are charged to be the ones who send them.

This means we must be committed to praying for them and the gospel message at work both in them and through them.

As we send them, we must commit our resources to financially support their needs. The laborer we worthy of his wages.

As we send them out they are still a part of use and we must care for them, emotionally supporting them with our care and concern, sending them card, text and notes of encouragement.

Paul ends with this in verse 15: “**As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”**

To those in need of hope and the message of the gospel, the one who brings that good news is welcomed and beautiful, refreshing.

Deb and Pastor Peter I have three things I want to give you.

To each of you I have a travel mug, a travel mug to remind you to always live sent.

On your cup Deb is this passage from Romans.

On your cup Pastor Peter is the verse from Hebrews 6:19.

And then for both of you I have this lotion…Pretty Feet. Take care of yourselves and each other.

Now, I would like to ask our elders, and the mission team to come up front. And you Pastor Peter and Deb would you come up too.

Pray and charge them.

Now CCEFC, I charge you to send them, not a one-time thing but an ongoing sending forth.

Prayer

**Benediction**

**“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (Num. 6:24-26)**