**Sermon Summary 20 October 2019**

**Beautiful Feet: by Graham Mol**

*Do you have beautiful feet?*

In **Romans 10** the Apostle Paul is speaking about the calling of God’s people out from both the Jews and Gentiles. Part of this is Paul’s longing for his people (the Jews) to turn to Christ. The main point that He makes can be found in verse 13:

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Everyone, that is anyone who calls on His name (Jew/Gentile), and every one of them who calls on His name is saved. But what does Paul mean by “who calls on the Lord”?

The answer to that can be found in the preceding verses.

*Please read* **Romans 10:9-13**.

Verse 9: Salvation is as simple as making a choice. By His grace, God has given us the opportunity of eternal life – life in Christ. He has set before us the choice of life and death, life in Christ or death in sin. We can choose life by believing in Christ and declaring Him Lord of our lives.

The order of this is more clearly illustrated in verse 10. Starting with the heart, we believe and are justified – we are made right with God, we have righteous standing. Then declaring with the mouth – by professing our faith – we show evidence of our salvation. These are tied to together, for out of the overflow of the heart one speaks – and acts, (**Luke 6:45**). Inward change of heart results in an outward transformation.

Verse 11: Paul also indicates that God is faithful, He will never let us down. We will never be put to shame because our promise of eternal life is an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. It is kept in heaven for us (see **1 Peter 1:3-4**).

Verses 12-13: No matter who we are – the same Lord is Lord of all – We can all call upon His name and be saved. Theologian John A. Witmer writes that: “To call on the Lord means to pray in faith for salvation.” It means to reach out to God, to ask Him to lift us up from the grave that sin has made for us and to lift us up into life by His side.

He who calls on the name of the Lord, profoundly humbles himself before God, recognizes His power, adores His majesty, believes His promises, confides in His goodness, hopes in His mercy, honours Him as his God, and loves Him as his Saviour… To call on the name of the Lord, is to place ourselves under His protection, and to have recourse to Him for His aid.

– Robert Haldane

And so this is a vital point that Paul makes that all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. But then he goes on to ask an equally important question:

*Please read* **Romans 10:14-15**.

Paul follows a logical progression here. “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” But how can they call on the Lord if they do not believe that He can save them? How can they trust Him unless they believe in Him?

How can they believe in Him if they do not know what He is like; If they haven’t heard that He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords; that He gave His life as a perfect sacrifice for our sin so that we could be made right with God and receive eternal life?

And yet, in order to hear the Gospel message, someone must preach it to them. The word here “preach” comes from the Greek kēryssō (kay-roo-so) which means to be a herald, to proclaim, to announce. In other words it’s not limited to preaching from the pulpit.

For us to proclaim the Good news we must be sent. The majority of the people who need to hear the Gospel are not sitting in Church, they are out in the world. We are sent to preach the Gospel.

Then Paul refers to a line from Isaiah 52:7 in saying “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” Why are these feet beautiful? They have carried the person who brought the good news, such wonderful news!

The original message in Isaiah is to the people of Judah who were in exile in Babylon – that they were going to be set free and return home. Paul takes this message and applies it to the Jews in his day who would hear the Gospel and turn to Jesus. So too does this message apply to us today as people hear the message that they can be set free from sin and join God’s people.

In that light consider these words from Isaiah:

*Please read* **Isaiah 52:7-10**.

*Do you have beautiful feet?*

*Are you going out and sharing the wonderful message of God’s salvation?*

*Are you, through your words and your actions proclaiming, preaching, the Good News?*

There are many ways in which we can do this. One of the most powerful ways is to live out the Gospel truth in your life before others.