



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Psalms Sermon Series

Supports Session 3: God's Glory

Sermon Title: "How Do We Hear?" (Romans 10:14-21)

Connection to Session 3

Romans 10:18 features a quote of Psalm 19:4. The psalmist declared that creation speaks about the glory of God. Creation preaches about the glory of God. The witness of creation to the glory and power of God is available to all. Just as creation preaches the glory of God, Christians should be engaged in preaching the glory of God through proclamation of the gospel.

Introduction/Opening

"Can you hear me now?" This was the question that defined a commercial for a cell phone company in the early 2000s. The company was advertising their wide-ranging cell phone coverage; the goal was for there to be no place the customer could go without making a call. In the same way, the Bible says that there is nowhere we can go in creation that we cannot hear creation proclaim the glory of God. Romans 10:18 quotes Psalm 19:4, which says, "Their message has gone out to the whole earth, and their words to the ends of the world" (CSB). In the context of Romans, Paul argues that preaching the gospel is necessary for people to hear and know God.

Outline

1. Hearing About God is Necessary for Salvation (Rom. 10:14)

- a. In the book of Romans, Paul presented a clear synopsis of the gospel. Paul made the case that all are guilty before God, Jew and Gentile alike. The Jews had the Law and failed to obey.
- b. Everyone, Gentiles included, had the witness of creation. As Paul wrote in Romans 1:19-20, "Since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are without excuse" (CSB). We are all unrighteous.
- c. The only way to true righteousness is faith in Jesus Christ. This is Paul's argument in Romans 4.
- d. Paul traces his argument backwards through the following verses, showing the various steps to someone coming to faith. In order, a preacher must be sent, the preacher must preach, the people must hear, the people must believe, and the people must call on Jesus because, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom. 10:13).

- e. God sent Jonah to Nineveh to proclaim a message. Jonah was God's preacher sent to the people of Nineveh. The people of Nineveh were living in sin, but they had not heard the message of God. Once they heard Jonah's preaching, they believed and repented (Jonah 3:10).

2. Hearing About God Demands a Preacher (Rom. 10:15)

- a. Throughout the history of salvation, God has appointed people to share His Word with His people and the world. He chose Moses to deliver the Law; He chose Jonah to preach to the Ninevites; He chose Paul to preach to the Gentiles.
- b. The gospel is a verbal message that demands a speaker. Quoting Isaiah 52:7, Paul presented the preacher as a runner coming back to town after a victorious battle, sharing the news of the win with the people there.
- c. Preachers are also "sent." In the first place, they are sent by God. But most often, God works through local churches to send out preachers. We can see an example of this in Acts 13, as the church in Antioch commissioned Paul to preach.
- d. Sharing the gospel is not only for vocational ministers. Communicating the gospel is something every believer should be able to do!
- e. The good news the preacher preaches is the glory of God (2 Cor. 4:4).

3. Hearing About God Does Not Guarantee Salvation (Rom. 10:16-21)

- a. In Romans 10, Paul is dealing with the question about Israel's lack of belief in Jesus as the Messiah. If they have the witness of creation, and if a preacher has been sent to them, why do they not believe? This could be the question for anyone who has seen evidence of God's glory in creation and has heard the gospel yet still remains unconverted.
- b. Those who do not believe the gospel remain in darkness. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, "But if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

Conclusion

Everywhere we look, we can see evidence of God. God's glory can be seen in the beautiful sunrise and sunset, in the powerful crashing waves, in the cycle of the seasons, and in life itself. Creation points us to God's glory, but so does the gospel. The gospel clearly displays God's glory through Jesus. In order to hear God, we must first look to His Son Jesus, hear His gospel, and call on Him. As we hear the gospel afresh, we should be reminded of God's glory and also His grace to us in Christ. We should also be compelled to share the gospel of the glory of God with others.

Jesse Welliver is the Senior Pastor of Summit Baptist Church in Loganville, GA. He earned his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC. He is married to Rachel, and they have four daughters.

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