

MOTIVATION FOR MISSIONS

Romans 10:14-17

What motivates us for missions?

Paul presents to us in our passage this morning a backwards look at the forward momentum to missions

“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!”

Here is the process as it actually happens:

We are sent, and we preach

As we do so, people will hear, believe, follow

Ultimately missions and evangelism is God's business

A reminder that God is sovereign in missions

A reminder of the condition of the world in which we live

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.” Romans 10:1-3

Paul tells us at least three things about our world:

1. The World is Lost

Of the 12,000 people groups in the world today, over half - 7,000, or 42% of the world population still have no real access to the gospel

2. The World Wants to be Found

The world wants to know God; they just don't know how

Paul tells us at least three things about our world:

3. Even though we can't make someone listen or believe –
It should our passion and prayer that people come
to faith

Paul said *“his heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved”*

How passionate was Paul?

“I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ² that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh.” Romans 9:1-3

“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!” Romans 10:14-15

Along with prayer, we must go and tell a lost and dying world

Paul was obedient in going where God sent him

We have to go where lost people can be found

We've got to share the Good News

Paul was also faithful in telling the story wherever he went

*But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says,
"Lord, who has believed our report?"* Romans 10:16

We need to be persistent in sharing the Good News with
those around us

SO THEN –

“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

1. Faith comes by hearing; hearing who? Hearing you

People’s best hope of coming to faith, is when they hear the gospel from a believer

2. The message is vital, and it must center on God’s Word

“Whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

When we are going and telling, people come to faith in Jesus

Pray, pray, pray, pray and pray – for God to prepare people's hearts

Prepare to talk to people – by staying in the word of God

Push against the barriers – going just means not staying where you are

Proclaim – the Gospel is a message to be shared

Put your faith in God – God is sovereign in missions