

How can people believe in God if they have never heard about him?

Text: Rom 10:14



I spent the morning teaching hermeneutics to a group of 22 very sincere and dedicated young people. Hermeneutics is all about finding out what the text meant to the original writers of the Bible in order to apply these truths to us today. It is about making the Gospel clear and understandable. Understanding the text is one thing but just how can people believe in God if they have never heard about him. This is truly our greatest challenge as Christians today. Somehow we need to share the knowledge we have received from God with others in order that they too might get to know Him.

So let me ask you a very personal question: Have you ever led someone to Christ? If not, why not? Maybe you think that God can never use you in this way, that you're just not gifted in that regard, and it is only for a privileged few to lead others to Christ. I have had many such conversations with church members who think that way. But if this were the case, why was the Great Commission given to every Christian? Every believer is called to "go and make disciples of all the nations . . ." (Matthew 28:19). That means we are all called to share our faith. We all have a part to play.

I must admit that it's a mystery to me that God has chosen to use ordinary people like you and me as the primary way of communicating his truth to the world. Surely there must have been a better way. A church member once commented to me that I seem to be very natural when I speak, that it must come easily to me. Don't believe a word of it. Nothing could be further from the truth. The truth is that before I became a Christian I had a very low self image of myself. In fact I could not even look people in the eye when I spoke to them. Public speaking literally made me weak in the knees and I usually started sweating before I even said a word.

However, Paul asks of us a very important question in Romans 10:14: **"But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them."** The truth is I have never been a good speaker. My stomach reacts violently to preaching and I remember nearly always freezing when asked to stand up and talk at school. I was not a public speaker.

But after I came to faith in Jesus Christ, I realized the best way to help people believe was through verbal communication, be it in front of a group or an individual. I realized that it is not about me or what I feel comfortable doing; it is about obeying God. Because the primary way God reaches people who do not yet know Him is still through verbal communication (tell your story). How can people hear about Christ unless someone tells them? That someone is supposed to be you or me.

God bless

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