

## Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon Road Map

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Romans 10:12-17

February 10, 2019

### Saving faith comes from hearing the word of Christ.

- Today this Lesson is bracketed by 2 similar Lessons:
  - ♦ Isaiah sees holy Yahweh, experiences forgiveness and is sent by God
  - ♦ Peter and company sense holy Jesus, forgiven, come prep to be sent
  - ♦ *Interesting or essential?* Paul reveals: **essential!** Here's why.

### Saving faith comes from hearing the word of Christ.

- Text bracketed by 2 key truths:
  - ♦ **"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."** Joel 2:32
  - ♦ **...faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through the word of Christ.**
- ❖ What does it mean to **call on the name of the Lord**?
  - Hebraism: *call out - speak God's name from a believing heart.*
    - ♦ Profess, praise, proclaim, pray
  - All who trust the Lord for life and salvation profess, praise, proclaim, pray
  - *For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.* Romans 10:10
    - ♦ **Not** process or procedure - I do, then God does
    - ♦ Salvation is God's work A to Z.
    - ♦ He creates saving faith. It fills the heart and overflows into the mouth.
  - Profession is a fruit of faith. His rescued people speak to him & about him.
- ❖ Paul works backwards to show how the saved are saved.
  - No one professes/praises/proclaims/prays without trust in the Lord
  - No one trusts the unknown. Can't know who to rely on, why, or where!
  - No one can know God unless someone heralds God's name and message.
  - No one can herald God's message unless God gives the message & sends.
  - There's a special link between the last 2 we might easily miss.
    - ♦ To us anyone can preach - stand up and proclaim a message.
    - ♦ *Preach* here means publicly proclaim the message of the King/God
    - ♦ It's **not** *proclaiming* your ideas and views!
    - ♦ God needs to tell us about himself and give us truth & promises to trust.
    - ♦ The LORD equips and sends his messenger (1<sup>st</sup> Lesson & Gospel)

- The Greek: emphasis is on **what's** heard, not the hearing or understanding
  - ♦ God is the power in his word.
  - ♦ The power is not merely in its attractive or persuasive ideas or truths.
  - ♦ It is not magic. God the Holy Spirit works through God's Word.
  - ♦ Like God's creative word used to call the universe into being & order it
- Romans theme: ***I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...*** Romans 1:16

### Saving faith comes from hearing the word of Christ.

- ❖ Consider human alternatives to *saving faith comes by hearing*?
  - Faith comes by genetics or pedigree? Faith comes by charity?
  - Faith comes by sincerity? Faith comes by meditation?
  - Faith comes by spiritual exercises? Faith comes by pilgrimages?
  - Faith comes by offering the sinner's prayer? ...by your decision?
    - ♦ Decision theology's misuse of these words of Paul
  - Common thread: people created and crafted. Blind leading the blind!
  - **...how can they believe in the one about whom they have not heard?**
- ❖ Faith created and cared for by the word - continue to confess word.
  - *How do I get saved?* is the wrong question. Force God to give me....
  - *How does God promise to keep me safe as his forever?*
    - ♦ Answer: *hearing the word of the Christ - Law and Gospel*
    - ♦ The words Jesus spoke - the Scriptures: all about Christ Jesus
  - Full of active ongoing action verbs: *believe, hearing, preaching*
    - ♦ That's how God daily keeps you with him in a state of being safe.
    - ♦ *...not despising preaching..., but regard it as holy and gladly hearing and learning it - in mind, heart, and mouth.*
    - ♦ His dynamic word at work in the heart and mind, overflows into the mouth of the believer - confirming, increasing, and maturing
  - This same word of Christ is present in the Sacraments
    - ♦ Baptism: ***by cleansing [Christ's church] with the washing of water in connection with the Word.*** Ephesians 5:26 EHV
    - ♦ The Lord's Supper: ***"This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me ... This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."*** Luke 22:19-20 NIV
    - ♦ The word wondrously works proclaimed and in Christ's sacraments. Keep on hearing - taking it in - taking it to heart.

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