

aired on KALS October 19, 2004

## Romans 10:11-17

11. “For the Scripture says, ‘WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.’

12. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;

13. for ‘WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.’

14. How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

15. How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, ‘HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!’

16. However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, ‘LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?’

17. So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”

Most people understand that we are saved by faith. As Hebrews 11:6 states, “Without faith it is impossible to

please God.” Because faith is so necessary to our salvation, our adversary the devil tries his best to confuse things with regards to saving faith. Not only is the definition of faith itself confused, but how one receives faith.

Our text this morning clearly states, “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”

Romans 10:17

But many have been misled by various teachings on how one receives faith. People are often taught that they can not understand the Scriptures or have faith until after they are saved and receive the Holy Spirit. Numerous Christian denominations and educational institutions require an acceptable salvation testimony before accepting a person as a Christian member. Some even vote on whether your salvation experience is valid or not.

All of this is absolutely inconsistent with the Word of God. Faith always precedes salvation in God’s dealings with mankind--and especially within the New Testament of Christ. Again, Romans 10:17 states, “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”

This hearing by the word of Christ underscores the importance of evangelistic preaching. Preachers are to plant the pure seed of God’s word in the hearts of the lost and unbelieving. This is the primary responsibility of true, Biblical evangelists. This morning’s text uses three rhetorical questions in verse 14 to drive this point home. Quote: “How then shall they call upon Him in whom

they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

To say that faith comes only after salvation is to pervert the word of God. Such teaching amounts to superstitious heresy; relying on ones feelings, sensations, and physical manifestations rather than holding fast to Christ through His word. Colossians 2:18 and 19 indicates some so-called Christians will rely on visions and revelations separate and apart from the word of Christ. Quote: “Taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast of the head...”

As verse 16 of Romans 10 concludes, “However, they did not all heed the glad tidings; for Isaiah says, ‘LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?’

Do you have ears to hear? Is your salvation, is your faith, built securely upon the word of Christ?