

**FOOT CARE FOR THE HERALDS OF GOD:**  
**Biblical Principles for Effective Evangelism**  
(Romans 10:14-17)

**I. PRELIMINARIES**

- A. Pastoral Prayer
- B. Dismiss Kids
- C. Today's Text:

*<sup>14</sup> How then can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe him (of) whom they have never heard? And how can they hear without a herald?*

*<sup>15</sup> And how can they serve as heralds unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!" <sup>16</sup> But not all of them have heeded the good news. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our report?" <sup>17</sup> So then: Faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

- D. Prayer over the ministry of the Word

**II. INTROUCTION AND REVIEW**

A. Opening Illustration: The story of Watkin Roberts, Chawnga Pudaite, and Rochunga Pudaite

- Tell the story of Watkin Roberts
- Read the accomplishments of Rochunga Pudaite

B. Today's Big Idea: The word of God is exceedingly powerful, and it *will* accomplish the purpose for which God sent it forth. Mysteriously enough, it has pleased God to send forth the Word through his people, the Church. Each and every Christian has a role to play in this; each and every Christian is equipped with beautiful feet! And though we may not always see the fruit of our evangelistic and missionary labors, we can be absolutely sure that those labors are not in vain.

C. Review:

1. (9-11) Paul is addressing the problem of large-scale Jewish unbelief
2. He traces it to two sources:
  - (9) God's purpose in election
  - (10) Israel's stubborn adherence to the Mosaic Law, which is fulfilled by Christ, and which proclaims simple faith in Christ as the one true way of salvation

3. In speaking of this, Paul stresses that we now live in a NEW DAY: Now, “whosoever will’ may come!

<sup>11</sup> For the scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between the Jew and the Greek, for the same Lord is lord of all, overflowing in riches to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For, “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

4. But all this raises a big QUESTION: How exactly will it come to pass that the nations call on the name of the Lord for salvation?

5. ANSWER: Through the ministry of Christians, *who are a people with beautiful feet!* We all are part of this ministry! In today’s text we receive from Paul six biblical principles that will beautify our evangelistic feet.

### III. FOOTCARE FOR THE HERALDS OF GOD

A. (14) #1: **God has determined to use human heralds to advance his kingdom in the Earth**

<sup>14</sup> *How then can they call on him in whom they have not believed?*

- **The absolute necessity of belief:**

*“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God . . . He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” – John 3*

*And how can they believe in him (of) whom they have never heard?*

- **The absolute necessity of hearing:**

*So then, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. – Rom.10:17*

*For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 1 Cor. 1*

And how can they hear without a herald (κηρύσσοντος)?

- **The absolute necessity of a herald: people must hear of Christ and believe in Christ in order to be saved**
- The dangerous position of Billy Graham and Mother Theresa
- **But is there an absolute necessity for a HUMSAN herald?**
- Answer: Maybe, maybe not. But the divine norm—and command—is a human herald. So, we better be about the business of the Lord! (“The secret things . . .”)

<sup>20</sup> Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God himself were pleading through us. In behalf of Christ, we implore you: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For he made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. – 2 Cor. 5

- An important distinction:
- Public Heralds: A few of us (e.g. Pat Roy)
- Private Heralds: All the rest of us!
- This distinction helps us avoid comparison and guilt (Christian M.)
- BUT, we ALL are called to be witnesses, and in that, heralds

**B. (15a) #2: God’s heralds must be sent and empowered by Him**

<sup>15</sup> And how can they serve as heralds unless they are sent?

- The crucial example of Christ (Mark 1:35)
- The crucial example of the early church (Acts 1; 13)
- Are we keeping a morning watch? (Jesus, Mark 1:35)
- **Note:** It is not only God, but also the Church that sends and supports her missionaries! The joy of teaming up with your chosen missionaries

**C. (15b) #3: The feet of heralds are beautiful to God and man**

*Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!”*

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!” – Isaiah 52:7*

- Beautiful to God, beautiful to man!
- The example of Ananias

**D. (15b) #4: God’s heralds proclaim peace and bring GOOD news!**

*Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!”*

- An Illustration: The Thai children
- We bring the captives SUCH good news: *escape into the light of the world above!*
- All God’s people should “feel the weight” – and pray (for who is sufficient for these things? (e.g., Ron Hoffman’s dictum about this mixed life)

**E. (16) #5: God’s heralds must expect a measure of rejection, and not fall to discouragement**

<sup>16</sup> But not all of them have heeded the good news. For Isaiah says, “LORD, who has believed our report?”

- Paul has in mind the Jews (e.g. of Paul in the synagogues)
- But it applies everywhere:

<sup>32</sup> *Now when they heard about a resurrection of the dead, some began to scoff and jeer; but others said, “We will hear you again on this matter.” – Acts 17*

- But we are never to be discouraged, because . . .

**F. (17) #6: God’s heralds may expect a measure of success, and draw courage, commitment, and comfort from this happy truth**

<sup>17</sup> *So then: Faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

- Our message is Christ
- Creation – Fall – Redemption
- Deity – Life – Death – Resurrection of Christ

*For I determined to know nothing among except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. I Cor. 2:2*

- Saving faith WILL come through this message!

*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. – Is. 55:10-11*

<sup>26</sup> *And he went on to say, “The kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup> after which he goes to bed and gets up, night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows, he himself not knowing how. <sup>28</sup> For the ground brings forth the crop all on its own: first the stalk, then the head, and then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But as soon as the crop is ready, the man immediately puts in the sickle, for the time to harvest has arrived.” – Mark 4*

*For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. – Rom. 1*

The Word of God is living, active, sharper than any two-edged sword! – Heb. 4

- Have confidence in God’s sovereignty (John 6, 10, 17, etc.)
- Have confidence the power of the Gospel
- And HERALD it!

## IV. APPLICATION AND CONCLUSION

### A. Tips for supporting public heralds (pastors, teachers, evangelists, missionaries)

- Pray for them (near and far)
- Contribute financially to their ministries (send them)
- Invite your friends to hear them

### B. Tips for becoming effective private heralds

- See yourself as strategically situated
- Pray daily for an assignment
- Be prepared to share: your testimony, the basic Gospel, why you believe it's true
- Make and build personal relationships
- Watch for open doors, lean on the Lord, be your Christian self
- Write out your testimony for sharing at an opportune time
- Have on hand a stack of your favorite gospel tract; maybe write one!
- Seniors: Consider a Pen-Pal Ministry

### C. Conclusion: Someday, pay day!

- Work day (now), pay day (then)!

*<sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world as a testimony to all the nations; and then the end will come. – Mt. 24:14*

*<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved in blazing fire, and the earth and the works found<sup>8</sup> in it will be burned up. <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be dissolved in this manner, what kind of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the Day of God, on account of which the heavens will be dissolved by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat? <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless, according to his promise, we are looking for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. – 2 Peter 3*

- The rest of Watkin Roberts story (Reading)