

I. Introduction and Review.

- A. The Lord has sent out heralds proclaiming good news. v. 15b Is. 52:7 Lu. 1:19 2:10f
- B. Not everyone receives the good news. v. 16 Isa. 53:1

II. Some hear with faith and believe. v. 17

- A. God uses the Word of Christ as the means by which faith is given. Js. 1: 18
I Pe. 1:23-25 John 3:34 5:39,46 6:63,68 Acts 5:20
 - 1. God's Word demands the obedience of faith. v. 16a,21 1:5 16:26 Heb. 11:6 5:9
Acts 6:6 17:31 Joel. 2:32 II Th. 1:7-8 2:10-12
 - 2. Saving faith comes by hearing, not heredity or sacrament.
- B. If you want to see genuine conversions, proclaim the Word of Christ.
 - 1. God calls His elect to faith through gospel proclamation. Acts 13:48 18:9-10
 - 2. The message (report) to be proclaimed, heard, and believed is the message of Christ. v. 16 Isa. 53:1f
 - 3. Those who are not preaching Christ will see no lasting fruit. I Co. 3:10-15
- C. If you want your own faith built up, listen to the Word of Christ. Mt. 11:15 13:43
Re. 2:7,11 Lu. 8:18

III. Tragically, many reject God's good news. v. 16 Isa. 53:1 John 12:37-38

- A. Not all hearing leads to faith.
 - 1. There are two kinds of hearing: external and internal.
 - 2. Outwardly hearing the gospel does not necessarily result in salvation. Heb. 4:2
- B. Most of the Jews despise the report about Jesus Christ. Is. 53:1 6:9-10 Jo. 1:11 12:35f
 - 1. They sought to justify themselves by works. 10:2-3
 - 2. This is nothing new. Matthew 21:33f I Co. 10:5 Acts 7:51-53
 - 3. The rejection of the gospel by the Jews led to the gospel message being extended to the Gentiles. Isa. 52:15 Mt. 21:43
- C. Why do some hear with faith while others do not? v. 17
 - 1. The natural man hears outwardly, while remaining inwardly deaf. Jo. 12:38-41
Isa. 6:9-10 I Co. 1:18 2:14
 - 2. Those who hear inwardly are those to whom the Arm of the Lord is sovereignly revealed. Isa. 53:1b John 6:44,37 Acts 16:13-14
- D. Many today reject the good news.

IV. Israel has no excuse for her unbelief. v. 18-21

- A. They can't claim they haven't heard. v. 18 Ps. 19:4
 - 1. How is Paul using Psalm 19:4 here?
 - 2. Just as God's voice has been heard in all places through the glory of the physical creation, now the gospel has been published far and wide. Ps. 19:4 Col. 1:5-6,23
Acts 1:8 2:5f 13:5,43 17:1f
 - 3. You cannot claim that you haven't heard.

- B. Nor can they claim they were ignorant of what God was doing. v. 19a**
1. Moses had warned them that they would be cut off for rejecting the Lord and that their place would be given to the Gentiles. v. 19b Deut. 32:21 John 5:39,46
 2. Isaiah repeats and elaborates on the same warning. v. 20-21 Isa. 65:1-2
 - a. God reveals Himself to the Gentiles who were far away. v. 20 9:30 Isa. 65:1
 - b. Israel's problem is that they are obstinate, not ignorant. v. 21 Isa. 65:2. Mt. 13:15 Acts 7:51-53 Jo. 3:19
 - c. They are all the more guilty in light of God's patient invitation. Jer. 7:13
 3. The rejection by the Jews gives the Gentiles a great spiritual opportunity. 11:11f Acts 13:44-49 Luke 12:1-12 20:15-16 Mt. 21:43
 4. God's acceptance of the Gentiles is meant to provoke the Jews to jealousy, leading to their salvation. v. 19 11:11,14
- C. Divine election and the free offer of the gospel are again taught side by side. v. 21**
1. God gives an universal invitation, but only those whom He has chosen come. Mt. 11:25-27 22:14
 2. God sovereignly reveals Himself to those who were spiritually dead. v. 20 9:30 I Ti. 1:13 John 6:44,37
 3. God hardens and cuts off the Jews. John 12:37f Isa. 53:1 Mark 4:12
 4. God repeatedly and graciously stretches out His hands to disobedient obstinate people. Mt. 11:28 23:37 Lu. 14:21-24 13:6-9 Acts 7:51-53 Jer. 7:13 Isa. 5:3 1:18f
 5. Israel is fully responsible for her stubborn unbelief. John 5:40 Heb. 3:15

V. Concluding applications.

- A. Rejoice, for God has sent forth His message of good news. 5:1-2 8:18,38-39 I Jo. 3:2 Jo. 3:16 I Pe. 1:8 Acts 8:39 16:34**
- B. If you have not yet submitted to God's message, you are without excuse.**
1. God graciously continues to stretch forth His Arms to stubborn and disobedient people. John 3:16
 2. His patience does have limits. Don't test Him. Pr. 29:1 Ps. 97:8 Heb. 3:7-8 Luke 13:6-9 17:26-29
- C. Show compassion to the lost. Rev. 22:17 Mt. 11:28**

Discussion Questions for Family Worship

1. What is the *report* which was not believed? v. 16 Isa. 53:1
2. Why didn't the Jews believe?
3. What are the two kinds of hearing?
4. How does hearing the Word produce saving faith? v. 17
5. What results should we expect when the Word of Christ is not faithfully proclaimed?
6. How does hearing the Word help build your faith?
7. Why can't the Jews make the excuse they haven't heard? v. 19
8. Why can't the Jews claim that they were ignorant of God's plans? v. 20-21
9. How should our attitude towards the lost be like God's? v. 21
10. How does this passage teach both God's free and gracious offer of the gospel to all, alongside of His sovereignty in saving whom He will?