

Pastor's Ponderings

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"Just Go and Bring Good News!!!"

by

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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? ¹⁵And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" ¹⁶But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, "Lord, who has believed our message?" ¹⁷Yet faith comes from listening to this message of good news—the Good News about Christ.

(Romans 10:14-17 NLT)

One of the things I am frequently asked about is church growth. Usually, comments or questions are in the context of or at least insinuate, "What are we going to do about church growth?" Of course, there are no precise answers. You don't make church growth happen. I, nor any other pastor, can make church growth happen. The pastor's job is to lead by example by preaching and teaching the Gospel (Good News) message.

What every believer can and must do is included in the scripture I've cited from Romans 10. What this scripture says is very plain. Bring the Good News to them.

Notice verse 16 above. It says, "...not everyone welcomes the Good News..." There are people in this world who just don't want to hear it. I'll bet you know some of them. That is your real challenge. How do you get somebody to church to hear the Good News? Here's the answer you are not going to like.....sometimes you're not!

I really dislike writing this next sentence because somebody's going to take it out of context and say, Pastor Davey said!!!!

Coming to church is not included in the Great Commission (see Matt 28:19-20; Luke 24:47; Mark 16:15; John 20:21; Acts 1:8). And it isn't included here in the letter to the Romans. I can't find anywhere in the Bible where the formula is to bring them to church to get them saved. Nope. It just isn't there. What is in the Great Commission is the fact that Jesus has ***sent you*** to bring them the Good News.

Somehow, somewhere in our 21st Century mentality, we have reduced the Great Commission to the Convenient Option. Our going has become optional and then only when it's convenient. "That's the pastor's job." "I'm not a preacher." "God didn't give me the gift of teaching." "I'm not called to do THAT." Oh, "I could never _____!" It all sounds like Moses at Mount Sinai (Exodus 3). Lot's of excuses. No self confidence. "Get somebody else, God! Oh Lord, not me!"

Like Moses, you're afraid of the challenge and sure of the failed outcome. Only thing is, just like Moses, you've forgotten God did not and does not intend on sending you alone. The GREAT I AM is going ahead of and with you. How can you fail? In two words, "You can't!!!!" The only way you can fail is to fail to go. God will win.

I pray there will come a day, like there was for Moses, when you have an inescapable encounter with the Living God. It will be a day when excuses, reasons why you can't (or won't), and lack of confidence will all be overcome by your unshakable trust in God. Moses finally trusted God. Moses believed and went. God used him and God saved.

The flip side answer to the rhetorical questions of Romans 10:14-17 is, if you don't go, then they won't hear, faith doesn't come, and the church doesn't grow.

Step out in faith and touch someone else's life with the simple truth, "***...Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said.***" 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NLT. God will grow the church when we go and bring Good News.

God is with you. God is mighty to save. Just go and bring Good News!!!