

The Near Word

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Romans 10:1-21

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The word is near. (5-13)

Why does Paul want us to know the word is near?

- Israel turned a *near* word into a far pursuit. (1-4)
 - "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." (10:4)
 - "End" = climax, culmination
- We can turn a near word into a far pursuit. (5-8)

What do we do?

- The four noble truths of Buddhism
- Five Pillars of Islam
- Legalism - possible characteristics
 - You are more aware of your past sins than of the cross.
 - You live believing that God is chronically disappointed with you.
 - You believe that forgiveness is dependent on your obedience.
 - You lack joy.
 - You are willing to live with low-grade guilt (or paralyzing condemnation) because you assume that it is religious.
- We experience the near word as we confess/believe. (9-10)
- Everyone who believes will be saved. (11-13)

The word goes far. (14-21)

- God sends His near word far through the preaching of His people

"Sending implies on the one side a restriction, but on the other an enhancement, of the power of the herald. The one who sends gives him the content of the message and authority. The disciples do not reclaim their own discoveries or insights.... A preacher is not a reporter who recounts his own experiences. He is the agent of someone higher whose will he loudly and clearly makes known to the public. Without calling and sending, preaching is a self-contradiction and even a deception. It holds out something which has no reality. If there is no sending, the preaching of Christ is propaganda, not mission." - G. Freidrich

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (17)

Maybe Israel didn't...

- Hear(18)
 - Deuteronomy 32:21
 - Isaiah 65:1
 - Isaiah 65:2
- Understand(19-21)