Victoria Fellowship Church

International & Interdenominational Bible Study Worksheet - July 09, 2023

Theme: Romans: The Power of God at Work in us. Topic: The Power of Faith in Salvation.

Main Texts: Romans 10:13-21

Key verse: Romans 10:13 – "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (NIV)

INTRODUCTION: For many people, the only problem they have with Christianity is the belief that Christ is the ONLY way to salvation. And not surprisingly, many believers also struggle with that truth. In Romans 10:9, the Holy Spirit reiterates this exclusiveness of Christianity when He declared "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Our saving faith is anchored on Jesus Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. "God presented Him as the only suitable atonement sacrifice, that through faith in His blood... to be the one who justifies those who have faith in Him" (Romans 3:21-26). Confessing with the mouth that Jesus is Lord and believing with the heart that God raised Him from the death is all that is needed for salvation.

1. (a) Romans 1:16 states that the gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. How does Romans 10:13 align with Romans 1:16? (b) Jesus' death, burial, resurrection has secured man's salvation. What role does faith then play in something which has already been completed? (c) Why do you think one's confession with the mouth and believing with the heart is important in saving faith?

Jesus Christ died to save the world. However, the saving faith is available only to those who call on the name of the Lord (Romans 10:13). This then raises three critical questions: (i) How can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? (ii) How can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? (iii) And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? And (iv) How will anyone go and tell them without being sent? (Romans 10:14-15 NLT). We are all called to witness Christ. It is not a suggestion, but a command. As if to encourage us, God caps off these searching questions with "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news" (Romans 10:15b). These words which Prophet Isaiah used to allude to Christ (Isaiah 52:7), is now applied to us! The feet of the gospel givers are considered beautiful because they bring the message of hope, peace, and eternal life.

2. The beauty of the Gospel is too much to keep to ourselves. (a) What practical challenges do the four questions in Romans 10:14-15 highlight for us as individuals and as a church (VFC) family? (b) In which of the four questions do you sense a need for improvement personally and as a church family? (c) What specific steps can we take to address these challenges (at the personal and corporate level)?

Are yours the beautiful feet which brings glad tidings of good things? (Isaiah 52:7) Over two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ was the Beautiful Feet who brough glad tidings of good things. He then gave us the privilege and responsibility to be the **beautiful feet** to the lost and dying around us. As our key verse states, the heart and the mouth are involved. In addition to the heart and mouth, the mind is also involved through understanding. That is why the gospel message is so simple, so that saving faith is available to whosoever (Romans 10:13), irrespective of one's religious, educational, or social background, and irrespective of one's past. Faith is a response of the heart that has understood and accepted what God has already done on man's behalf through Jesus Christ. This has implications for how we evangelize.

3. (a) If understanding the message is important in saving faith, what imperative does it put on what we preach, or when we tell someone 'Jesus loves you' in the name of evangelism? (b) Let participants give examples of how God's requirement of faith for salvation has been replaced with "works" and "sacrifices"? (c) What changes do we need to make in how we evangelize in the light of this study?

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for the power of faith in our salvation. Give us the grace and enablement to

walk in Faith always, and to be true witnesses of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ to the perishing world, in Jesus' name, amen.