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Message Notes

June 1, 2025

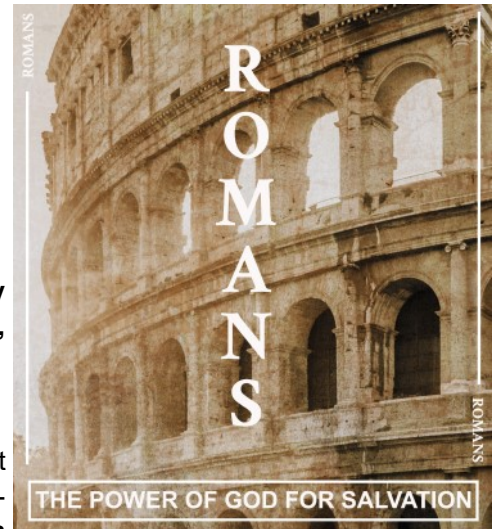


Helping People Believe – Week 1: Preparing Your Heart

Romans 10:1&2

“¹Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. ²For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

The Big Idea: Evangelism isn’t just for extroverts with microphones. You don’t have to be loud, polished, or perfect—just faithful in helping other people believe. Whether you’re more like a **Farmer, Fisherman, Fragrance,** or **Salt on a Ribeye**, God has uniquely equipped you to “get in the way just enough to get out of the way”—so that people can see Jesus. In Romans 10, Paul doesn’t just give us a theology of evangelism, he offers a practical workshop to empower every believer. Over five weeks, we’ll walk through God’s step-by-step training plan to prepare our **hearts, minds, mouths, feet,** and **hands** for the mission of sharing Christ. This first session is all about the attitude and condition of our hearts.



Preparing Your Heart

1. Correcting Your Heart’s Wishes

Vs. 1 ~ “**Brothers**, my heart’s *desire*...is that *they may be saved*.”

2. Raising Your Heart’s Hopes

Vs. 1 ~ “Brothers, my heart’s...*prayer* to God for them is that they may be saved.”

3. Sharpening Your Heart’s Vision

Vs. 2 ~ “For *I bear them witness* that *they have a zeal for God*, but not according to knowledge.”

Small Group Discussion Guide
Helping People Believe – Week 1: Preparing Your Heart
Romans 10:1&2

Getting Started

What comes to your mind when you hear the word “**evangelist**”—positive or negative?

Can you share an experience (good or bad) you've had with someone who called themselves an evangelist?

Digging Deeper (*Read Romans 10:1–2*)

1. *My heart's desire...is that they may be saved.*” – Vs.1

- Paul deeply desires the salvation of people who are actively opposing him. Can you relate to having someone in your life who's hard to love or pray for?
- Sometimes our desire is more for people to stop being difficult than for them to be saved. What are some real-life examples of that kind of thinking?
- How can we tell when our hearts are more concerned with comfort than conversion?

2. Paul regards Jews as people who needed to be saved, not separated from.

- Why might people (including Paul) have been tempted to give up on the Jews of his day?
- Read **Luke 18:9–14**. How does the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector reflect what can go wrong in our hearts as evangelists, and how the roles of this parable can be reversed in us?

3. *“My heart's...prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.”* – Vs.1

- What does Paul's ongoing prayer life reveal about his view of God's power and the lost people in his life?

(3. Continued)

- Evangelists are called to see lost sheep, not lost causes. What helps us resist becoming cynical toward those hardened by sin?
- Is there someone you've stopped praying for—or quietly given up on? What might it take to rekindle hope and begin interceding for them again?

4. *“For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.” - Vs.2*

- What surprises you about Paul's ability to affirm something good in people who actively oppose him?
- Effective evangelists learn to spot signs of God's grace—even in the messiest lives—and use those glimpses to encourage faith and repentance. What are some biblical examples of this?
- How can we train ourselves to recognize and articulate where God is already at work in someone's life? Who in your life right now might fit that description?

Making It Real

Paul prayed persistently for the salvation of specific people. Share one or two names of people you're actively praying for. In addition to praying for their salvation, ask God to prepare your heart into the kind of evangelist He's calling you to be—one who hopes, sees, and loves like He does.

Resources

Romans: Righteousness from Heaven | R. Kent Hughes

www.blueletterbible.org

www.biblehub.com

www.preceptaustin.org