

# YOU

Bible Study

**Sermon Series: How to Share Christ**

**To be used with: The Message**

**Sermon Title Possibilities: Represent Christ By  
Knowing**

**Scripture: Romans 10:8b-17**

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the small group study “How to Share Christ,” this sermon encourages every disciple-maker to know what is required of them, what the required response for salvation, and what is God’s part. Although this passage does not give an exhaustive list, it provides a foundation to build on from other Scripture texts. Saints must know what they believe and why.

**Introduction:** Imagine going to your doctor, and he or she tells you to follow a prescription precisely. So, you ask your doctor, “Why?” and he responds by saying, “I don’t know, just do what I’m asking.” It would be hard to trust that kind of doctor. It is also hard to rely on a Christian, who tells people to live and do things a certain way without knowing why. Today, God does not want you to be ignorant but to represent Christ by knowing what is involved in the salvation process.

## **1. Know the Process (v. 8b-13)**

Saints should not be ignorant concerning the process of giving one’s life to God. Paul brings out two essential responses that must happen, confess, and believe. First, the sinner must confess that Jesus is Lord. Every individual must sincerely declare that Jesus is not just a friend or a helper, but He is the Lord and Master of their life. Second, the unbeliever must believe that God, the Father, raised Jesus Christ from the dead in his heart. Believing means to have faith in God or to put one’s trust in the actions of God. When a person puts his or her confidence in the work of God, God will save them.

Paul then explains what God does in this process. When someone believes and confesses God, as in Abraham’s case, He accounts faith as righteousness (Rom 4:22). Believing and professing cannot be separated. These words speak of the inward and outward expression of one’s heart. Paul declares that calling, confessing, and believing produces salvation.

## **2. Know Your Part (v. 14-15a)**

Paul gives a series of rhetorical questions to drive us to see the connection between the disciple-maker and a sinner coming to faith in Christ. He asks four how questions, each connected to the one before or after it. With the first question, saints are made aware that a sinner cannot call on the name of the Lord for salvation without first putting his or her trust in Him. Next, Paul exposes

the fact that belief is not possible without the sinner hearing the gospel. Since the gospel needs to be heard, someone needs to proclaim it with the intent of people responding. In this text, the Apostle speaks of a preacher as someone called or sent to proclaim the message. Specifically, he refers to a pastor, bishop, elder, but generally, to every believer because we all have been charged to be His witnesses, and witnesses testify. We must see that God has given His people a part to play in the salvation of sinners. We must proclaim it, share it, or teach it as he sends us.

### 3. Know the Problem and the Privilege (v. 15b-17)

We should not be amazed but should be aware of the problem. As Paul reveals, not everybody that hears will obey the gospel. Even in the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” Yes, it is tough to see people reject the greatest gift that has ever been offered. Yes, it is difficult to witness men, women, boys, and girls discard the life-changing message of Christ. Yet, we look beyond and see Paul’s reminder. He says, “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” What does this mean? It says that faith or trust is produced by hearing God’s Word. Therefore, we have the responsibility and the privilege to just keep on sharing the message.

**Conclusion:** We expect doctors to know how to practice medicine. The same is true for lawyers. We want them to understand the law. As disciple-makers we must know the part we play, God’s part, and what the sinner needs to do. Knowing this will help us to represent Christ well.

*Author Bio: Brian M. Carmichael Sr. is married to Stacey of twenty-seven years. They have four grown children (three boys and one girl) and two grandchildren. He is the pastor of Holy Temple Baptist in Memphis, TN. He is an adjunct professor at Baptist Health and Sciences University, Union University (Jackson, TN), and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. He received his BSOL from Union University (Jackson, TN) and his MDIV and Ph.D. from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.*