

### **How Shall They Hear?** **(Part 3)**

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! (Romans 10:14-15).

God's plan, from before the foundation of the world, was that men "be sent" to preach the Gospel to others. Though television and radio are expedient methods for spreading God's Word, it is not the best way and must not be considered the only way. The best method for converting the lost is for a Christian to make a personal visit to that individual and teach him face to face. The best way to help the erring is by going to him and teaching him personally. The best way to edify the Church of Christ, the body of the saved, is to teach and preach to them in person. Otherwise, why assemble on Sunday when one could flop down in front of the tube to hear a sermon. God's design was not for electronic media to do the job of a preacher. His design was for preachers to do the job of preachers.

Some want to scare us with numbers and statistics, and want to claim that there is no way to spread the Gospel to the whole world merely by having each local congregation evangelize its own community. The Holy Spirit of God disagrees, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went *into all the earth*, and their words *unto the ends of the world*" (Romans 10:17-18, emphasis mine). Jesus sent twelve men to preach that the Kingdom was at hand "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 10:5ff). That was a profound undertaking, but they succeeded. The first Gospel sermons were preached by twelve men on the first Pentecost after the death, burial, and resurrection of the Christ (Acts 2). Some three thousand souls were added to the church that day (Acts 2:47). As those three thousand dispersed back to their homes, they taught others and the Church prospered. Even when Satan attacked children of God with persecution, the Church prospered because "they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). It wasn't the work of one man or one congregation that successfully spread the Word to all parts of the earth, rather it was by the work of each and every Christian. The Word of God didn't have a problem being spread in the first century without electronic media, therefore, it should be no problem today.

– *Brad Green*

