

## The Gospel and the Church

### Romans 10:9-15

In this wonderful summary of the gospel there are two different actions in v9. One is inward and the other is outward.

Why are both necessary? Is the confession a once off event?

V10-13 Seem to be almost too simple. Is it more complicated than this?

Verses 14 and 15 are prefaced with a “but”. Why does God rely upon us to be his hands and feet in the work of the Gospel?

Often when we read passages like this we tend to individualise the teaching. Its up to me on my own to do my bit or its up to the missionaries to do their bit or I hope God raises up evangelists to do this work. However, if we look back to the beginning of Romans we will see that Paul is addressing his teaching to the Saints at Rome. The church, all together, is to act upon this teaching and on this instruction to go.

Yet how much of our modern emphasis in modern church life is more about coming and staying than it is on going? If we picture going as a gospel activity outside the walls of the church then in what ways are you encouraged to go?

Think about your non-Christian friends, workmates and neighbours. How many of them would come to a service at the church if you invited them? How many of them would only ever have a spiritual conversation if we went to them?

What forms of going (to be people with beautiful feet) are there that you can think of?

In the last 20 years Springwood Church has a proud record of having sent out members to be missionaries and pastors and workers for other Christian organisations. Have we made an unconscious error in thinking that we are only to send out “paid professionals”? Do you think this is what Paul meant in this passage? Do you think that Jesus call to his disciples “Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men” is only directed at full time Christian workers?

One of the ways that is beginning to claim centre stage in Christian missional thinking is the planting of new churches. Often smaller, often linked to a larger church for buildings or resources or children’s programs etc. Often home or school hall based, nimble and highly focused on mission and discipleship. Our Association of Churches (Greater West for Christ) has set a goal for two new churches next year, three the following year and five the year after.

Springwood has been asked to lead and co-ordinate this. Will you please pray that God will raise up workers for the harvest?