



[Romans 10:14-17](#)

(14) How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? (15) And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (16) But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" (17) Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

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The word of [Christ](#) is what brought us out of [the world](#) and that to which we were converted. When we drift away from it, we become confused, and we begin dividing, bickering and fighting among ourselves. The solution is given elsewhere in the Bible: *Get back to what brought us together in the first place*—the combination of the word of Christ and devotion to Him, to the [love](#) that we had at the beginning ([Revelation 2:4-5](#)).

Genuine ignorance may be a defense before [God](#), but neglect never is. We need to remember [Hebrews 2:3](#), "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" God can forgive ignorance because we cannot believe what we did not know, and even though we may be punished in our ignorance, it is far different from being punished when we know better. Yet, "to whom much is given, from him much will be required" ([Luke 12:48](#)). We are not in ignorance. If we are slipping away, it is because of neglect.

One way we can be unworthy at [Passover](#) time ([I Corinthians 11:27](#)) is *by neglecting or forgetting what we are now*. We need to evaluate [faith](#) in light of the Passover and the state of our minds and our hearts as we approach it.

Moffatt translates [Romans 10:17](#) as, "Faith must come from what is heard, and what is heard comes from the word of Christ." We are saved by grace through faith, and faith comes from knowledge of God and His Word, so the importance of studying His Word, meditating on it, seeking practical applications for our life, cannot be overstated.

Along with obedience, practical application of God's Word is a must if we want to have saving faith. We must check ourselves before Passover to see whether we have passed up or neglected opportunities to make practical use of our faith. This means so much to our attitude, the way we approach life on a daily basis.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:
[A Pre-Passover Look](#)



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