

Readings

Scripture

¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
- Romans 10:17 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

We tend to think of sin as the breaking of a set of abstract rules. But sin is much more than that. Sin is the breaking of a relationship that results in breaking God's rules. Remember, the Ten Commandments begin with a call to worship God above all else. You see, it is only when God is in his rightful place in my heart that I desire to live in a way that pleases him. If God is not in his rightful place, I insert myself in his place, write my own laws, and give myself to doing what pleases me. So every sin is against God. Every sin is an assault on God's rightful place. Every sin is a betrayal of him. Every sin steals glory from him. Every sin denies his existence and his authority. Every sin replaces him with something else. Every sin quests for his power and his glory. Every sin is after his throne.

- Paul David Tripp, *New Morning Mercies*, December 11.

Sermon Outline

The Freshness of Faith

Romans 10:17

An Evergreen Faith

Brad Anderson

Over the course of life, God will lead us into a greater sense of our need.
(Romans 10:17)

Why will God lead us into a greater sense of our need?

Because the gift of faith only comes to those in need... (Romans 10:17)

Because the gift of faith only comes to those in need through hearing...
(Romans 10:17)

Because the gift of faith only comes to those in need through hearing the word of Christ... (Romans 10:17)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- Need is as common as our shared humanity and at the same time, uniquely personal. Through what area of need did God first make himself known to you? When would you say that you first became aware of your need for Jesus? How has the passing of time increased your awareness of your need?
- Why would it appear that God leads his people into a deeper sense of need as we walk with him over the course of life? What effect does that leading have on us spiritually? How have those initial places of felt need become more familiar over time as God leads us back to those same places repeatedly?
- In Romans 10:17, Paul says that faith comes by hearing the word of Christ. How has God grown your appetite for his word over the course of time? Can you identify a time when you were not hungry for his word and then a time when you could not get enough?
- God's word is like food for our faith. Ironically, unlike physical food, as we eat God's word our desire for it increases. At some point with physical food we become full and hungry again later, but with God's word our appetite increases as we feast upon him. How would you describe your level of hunger at this point in your life?
- What steps could you take in the coming year to grow in your desire to read, listen, study, memorize, and meditate upon God's word?