

# BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

## Hey, Nice Feet!

Romans 10:12-21

2000

### Introduction

I've been accused of many things in my life, but having nice looking feet wasn't one of them!

First of all, my feet are rather large and wide -- the result of growing up on Oahu with an aversion to shoes.

Second, I've always thought that my big toes resembled an astronaut with his helmet on.

Third, my feet have a tendency to sweat. Fortunately, they don't smell – at least not that I am aware of!

Fourth, they are crisscrossed with veins on top and leathered with calluses on the bottom.

Fifth, I've had four operations on my left foot and plenty of scars to prove it.

And finally, my right big toenail is blackened and falling off – the result of playing basketball with Mr. Hanada.

I'm not exactly what you would consider a candidate for a “beautiful foot” contest! Maybe you can relate! Yet, today, we are going to discover how to have beautiful feet. And by God's grace, we can encourage one another on a regular basis with the greeting, “Hey, nice feet!”

### I The Opportunity for Salvation

A. God's righteousness is available to both Jew and Gentile [verse 12a]

Romans 1:16 “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”

1. God is **Lord** of all [verse 12b]

Earlier in Rom 3:22-25, Paul used this same phrase in a very negative way: “There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

But here he uses it to proclaim to Jews and Gentiles alike that the gift of God in Christ Jesus is available to any and all who receive it by faith.

2. God richly blesses all who **call** on him [verse 12c]

**Rich** = Pluteo = “To be extremely wealthy” Loaded

**Call** = Epikaleomai = “To invoke or appeal to”

To call upon the Lord was to recognize and submit to His deity, His authority, His sovereignty, His power, His Word and His grace.

B. God's righteousness is available to everyone [verse 13]

1. **Everyone** who calls on the Lord will be saved - Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21

**Saved** = Sozo = “Healed, preserved, made whole”

So if a person is not saved, it's not because salvation is not available, but rather, that it has been refused. Every man, woman and child is responsible for their eternal destiny. The choice is ours. Yes, God elects. Yes, God predestines. Yes, God foreknows. But the eternal truth of God's Word remains: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!"

## II The Requirements for Salvation

### A. A recipient

1. A person who is willing to **hear** [verse 14c]

**Hear** = Akouo = "To understand an audible message or report"

- a. The message of the Good News

2. A person who is willing to believe [verse 14b]

**Believe** = Pisteuo = "To have faith in or to entrust one's self to another"

Eph 1:13-14 "And you also were included in Christ when you **heard** the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having **believed**, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit ..."

John 10:25-28 "... you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

Heb 4:2-3 "... but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith."

3. A person who is willing to **call** [verse 14a]

**Call** = Epikaleomai = "To invoke or appeal to for aid"

It takes a certain degree of humility to ask for help. Sometimes, because of our stubbornness or embarrassment, we resist calling out to God for help.

Jer 29:11-14 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD ..."

### B. A messenger

1. A person who is willing to be **sent** [verse 15a]

**Sent** = Apostello = "One who is set apart or sent out on a mission"

- a. The sending out of the 12

Mark 6:7-8 "Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits."

- b. The sending out of the 72

Luke 10:1-4 "10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the

Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.”

c. The sending out of all believers

Matt 28:18-20 “Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**Application:**

The fact is, if you are a believer then you have been called and commissioned to be His representative on earth.

2 Cor 5:18-21 “[God] has given “us the *ministry* of reconciliation and has committed to us the *message* of reconciliation. “We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”

2. A person who is willing to **preach** [verse 14d]

**The Ideal Preacher: The result of church’s pastoral search committee**

- He preaches only 20 minutes, but thoroughly expounds the Word.
- He condemns sin, but never hurts anyone’s feelings.
- He works from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., doing every type of work, from preaching in the pulpit to janitor work.
- He makes \$200 a week, wears good clothes, buys good books regularly, has a nice family, drives a nice car, and gives \$50 a week to the church.
- His family is completely model in deportment, dress, and attitude.
- He is 26 years old and has been preaching for 30 years.
- He is tall, short, thin, heavysset, handsome, has one brown eye and one blue eye, hair parted in the middle, left side dark and straight, right side blond and wavy.
- He has a burning desire to work with teenagers and spend all his time with the older people.
- He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his work.
- He makes 15 calls a day on church members, spends all his time evangelizing the unchurched, and is never out of the office.

(<https://bible.org/illustration/ideal-preacher>)

**Preacher** = Kerusso = “A herald or public crier”

Mark 16:15-17 “He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”

a. That Christ died for our sins - 1 Cor 15:3b

b. That Christ was buried - 1 Cor 15:4a

c. That Christ was raised on the third day - 1 Cor 15:4b

**Illustration:**

I remember the day it dawned on me that the gospel itself was the power of God!

Romans 1:16 "... the gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes."

1 Cor 1:18 "... the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

The Word of God is like a caged lion. All we need to do is open the door.

**How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news! [verse 15b]**

Feet are not usually the first thing that comes to mind when we think of something beautiful. What with all the calluses, bunions, peanut toes, etc.

*Beautiful* = Horaios = "Belonging to the right hour or season; therefore, "timely"

It is not the physical feet that Paul is referring to here, but the Good News of good things that those feet carry to the ends of the earth.

**Illustration:**

The role of the runner in Biblical Times: Reporting on a battles or big news!

There was a great deal of prestige and joy associated with being asked to deliver a message of Good News.

Isa 52:7 "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Eph 6:13-16 "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."

**Application:**

If you have become stagnant in your Christian life, it's a safe bet that you're not in fellowship with the Lord and that you're not sharing the Gospel. Without these two God-ordained purposes being fulfilled in your life you will be self-absorbed and self-focused – which has got to be one of the most miserable conditions known to man.

If you want to have beautiful feet, happy feet, with a spring in your step again, then let your feet begin to carry you into the presence of people who need to hear the Good News of the Gospel.

### C. The process summarized

#### 1. Faith comes by **hearing** the message [verse 17a]

Notice that faith does not come by intuition, mystical experiences, meditation, or worldly philosophy, but by hearing and responding in faith to the Good News.

Matt 7:24-27 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

Paul’s argument in this passage is that a clear message which gives understanding to the truth must precede saving faith. It is fine to reach out to people through service and to let them observe our good deeds, but the heart of evangelism must eventually include a clear, verbal explanation of the gospel of Jesus Christ if we are to fulfill our ministry and calling as ambassadors for Christ.

#### 2. The message is heard through the **Word** [verse 17b]

1 Thess 2:13 “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.”

The purpose of evangelism is not to use human persuasion and clever devices to manipulate confessions of faith out of people, but to faithfully proclaim the simple Gospel of Christ. It’s the Holy Spirit’s job to bring conviction and salvation to those who hear and accept the Word of Christ.

Isa 55:11 “... so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

Heb 4:12-13 “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

### III The Realities of the Process

#### A. Not all the Israelites accepted the Good News [verse 16]

##### 1. Not because they hadn’t **heard** it [verse 18]

Psalms 19:1-4 “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.”

The universe is a silent testimony giving man universal access to a fundamental knowledge of God.

In Romans 1:18-21, Paul have already emphasized that “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

2. Not because they hadn’t **understood** it [verse 19]

a. God made them envious by the Gentiles

Deuteronomy 32:21 “They made me jealous by what is no god and angered me with their worthless idols. I will make them envious by those who are not a people; I will make them angry by a nation that has no understanding.”

*To provoke to envy* = Parazeloo = “To stimulate rivalry by bringing alongside”  
How did God provoke the Jews to jealousy?

By letting the Jews, who were God’s chosen people, see God shower the Gentiles, who were not His people, with the gift of His salvation through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Romans 11:11 “... salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.”

**Illustration:**

Provoking others to action through jealousy: Sports, academics, promotions  
There seems to be one of two responses when God is doing a new work in and through a person or ministry:

1. Jealousy, anger and criticism – Cain, Saul, the Pharisees
2. Emulation – David, Elisha, the Disciples

Examples in ministry: John Wesley, Moody

b. God made them angry by the Gentiles

*To provoke to anger* = Parorgizo = “To provoke to anger by bringing alongside”

**Illustration:**

In Pisidian Antioch on Paul’s first missionary journey:

Acts 13:44-46 “On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying. Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.”

3. Not because God hadn't **revealed** it [verse 20]

a. The Gentiles found what they weren't seeking

Rom 9:30 "What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith."

We are Gentiles! We weren't walking in the covenants. We weren't studying the Torah. We weren't keeping the Law or observing the Sabbath. We didn't find God. He found us!

b. The Gentiles discovered what they weren't asking for

In one of Jesus' parables, a man gave a great banquet to which none of the originally invited guests came. When the slave reported the various excuses that were given ... "the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'" Luke 14:21-24

B. God's assessment of the problem [verse 21]

1. God patiently held out His hands of mercy to Israel

Isa 65:1-2 "I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.' All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations ..."

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

*He stretched His hands out to Israel and He stretched them out on the cross for us!*

2. Yet, they rejected His offer of salvation because:

a. They were a **disobedient** people

**Disobedient** = Apeitheo = "To contradict, to speak against, to willfully disbelieve"

The Bible makes it clear that saving faith is marked by submissive obedience to God's righteous truth, and that unbelief is marked by disobedience to that truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:10 "They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved."

b. They were an **obstinate** people

**Obstinate** = Antilego = “To be unreasonably determined to have one’s own way; stubborn and not yielding to reason.”

Acts 7:51-53 “You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him -- you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it.”

Ezek 2:3-8 “He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' And whether they listen or fail to listen--for they are a rebellious house--they will know that a prophet has been among them. And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all around you and you live among scorpions. Do not be afraid of what they say or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious house. You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious. But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not rebel like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.”

## **Conclusion**

It is highly unlikely that any of us will ever be stopped in the street by people commenting on the beauty of our feet. But from God’s perspective, and the perspective of those who will hear, believe and call on the Lord, your feet – by virtue of the fact that they carry you, a messenger of reconciliation – can be considered supremely beautiful!

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