

Romans 10:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith,
Lord, who hath believed our report?

Analysis

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?—All' ou pantes hypēkousan tō euangeliō (ἀλλ' οὐ πάντες ὑπήκουσαν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ, "But not all obeyed the gospel"). Hypakouō (ὑπακούω, "obey, submit to, heed") treats gospel-belief as obedience (cf. Rom 1:5; 16:26, "obedience of faith"). Faith is not mere intellectual acknowledgment but willing submission to Christ's lordship. The gospel is not advice to consider but a royal summons to obey (2 Thess 1:8; 1 Pet 4:17).

Paul quotes Isaiah 53:1, Kyrie, tis episteusen tē akoē hēmōn? (κύριε, τίς ἐπίστευσεν τῇ ἀκοῇ ἡμῶν; "Lord, who has believed our report/message?"). Isaiah's Suffering Servant prophecy was largely rejected by Israel—the supreme irony that the Messiah's glory came through suffering. Akoē (ἀκοή) means "hearing, report, message"—the content heard. Paul applies this to gospel-rejection: Israel's prophesied rejection of Messiah continues in rejecting the gospel. This softens the tragedy (it was prophesied) but intensifies responsibility (they are without excuse).

Historical Context

Isaiah 52:13-53:12, the fourth Servant Song, prophesied Messiah's vicarious suffering for sin. First-century Judaism largely did not expect a suffering Messiah—they awaited a conquering warrior-king. Jesus fulfilled Isaiah 53 precisely (Matt 8:17; 1 Pet 2:24-25), but "we esteemed him stricken, smitten of God" (Isa 53:4). The early church extensively used Isaiah 53 to prove Jesus' Messiahship from

Torah (Acts 8:32-35). Jewish rejection of crucified Messiah was the stumbling block (1 Cor 1:23).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Have you "obeyed the gospel" or merely acknowledged it intellectually without life-transformation?
2. Why do you think the gospel message is rejected by so many who hear it clearly?
3. How does understanding faith as obedience shape your view of nominal Christianity and lordless conversion?

Interlinear Text

Ἀλλ	οὐ	πάντες	ὑπήκουσαν	τῷ	εὐαγγελίῳ	Ἡσαΐας	γὰρ
But	not	all	obeyed	G3588	the gospel	Esaias	For
G235	G3756	G3956	G5219		G2098	G2268	G1063
λέγει	Κύριε	τίς	ἐπίστευσεν	τῇ	ἀκοῇ	ἡμῶν	
saith	Lord	who	hath believed	G3588	report	our	
G3004	G2962	G5101	G4100		G189	G2257	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 53:1 (Faith): Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

Romans 3:3 (Faith): For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

Hebrews 4:2 (Faith): For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Hebrews 11:8 (Faith): By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Hebrews 5:9 (Parallel theme): And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Romans 2:8 (Parallel theme): But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

Romans 6:17 (Parallel theme): But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Galatians 5:7 (Parallel theme): Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

1 Peter 2:8 (Parallel theme): And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

2 Thessalonians 1:8 (References Lord): In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: