Trinity 12 -September 7, 2025
Text: Romans 10:9-17
Theme: Attaining Heavenly Glory

Attaining Heavenly Glory. That is what we asked for in the prayer of the day, that we might obtain heavenly glory. That was the goal for St. Paul as well, and it seems like a good goal to have. In fact, it is all of humanity's goal. Atheists are not truthful with themselves when they confess that they don't believe in a god. Every human being since the beginning of time has believed in a god. An atheist just doesn't know the one true God, and so he doesn't like him or trust him.

Our God is easy to hate if you don't know Him. He often seems unfair, and He is definitely demanding of us. What god would create a being and then put him in a world where everything works against him? Nothing is our friend. Even gravity gets us as we grow older! But that is not what God did. You and I know that the world into which we were placed was beautiful and perfect until we broke it by sinning. Ah! But why did God include the potential for disobedience? Why not get rid of the tree since He knew from the start that we would eat of it and bring sin into the world? See how unfair God is?

He doesn't come right out and explain the answer to that one. That's another thing some people hate; having a God who has no need to explain himself to us. Some people writhe under any

authority figure who says this is the way it is because I said so. Period. We don't need a reason or an explanation. But that does not sit well with everyone. Maybe we cannot understand even if we wanted to do so. Our brains are limited. Maybe it's just none of our business. But I think the answer to why God allowed us the opportunity to sin lies in God's very nature. God is a creative God. He loves to create, which is why we are all here. We can understand that drive for creativity because He has created it in us as well. We love to create too. All of us love to create things. You may feed your creative urges in all different ways, but you love to create. We create spaces for ourselves and others. We create people biologically, morally, and mentally. We create art. We create relationships. We create foods and drinks and experiences. We love to create but where would be the joy of creation if everything were automatically perfect? I think God intentionally created free will so that there could be the option of the created doing something different and learning from its mistake.

Anyone who has taught people something knows the joy of seeing the student get it, and the frustration of seeing the student fail to get it. Therein lies the joy and creativity of teaching. We get that from God. Then God turns around and invites us to be creators with Him! He invites us to take what we have learned from Him and

teach it to others. That is exactly what St. Paul is talking about in the epistle.

"But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'…So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

We know that there are people who are disconnected from God and from His Church. They are our target. It does not matter why they are disconnected; our goal is to reconnect them. One of the reasons I don't like the idea of the title "Board of Evangelism" is that people tend to think that evangelism is their job. No, they are there to facilitate all of us so that we can more effectively be the beautiful feet of those who preach the good news! We walk on those beautiful feet, all of us do. And we continue preaching the good news until our last breath or Jesus returns. Only then will our work be complete.

The Gospel tells the old story of Jesus healing a deaf man. That is a fantastic physical example of a spiritual truth. We are all called to seek the spiritually deaf and heal them. Be creative! Jesus used spit! That was unusually creative. It was incredibly intimate. He literally used the fluid from His body to heal the deaf man. And hears

the amazing thing when you think about it. Just as Jesus used His own bodily fluid to heal that man's physical infirmity, so does He use His own bodily fluid to heal our spiritual infirmity. He does this when we drink His blood at Holy Communion. Jesus knows no boundaries when it comes to healing us.

Cast aside all boundaries and do whatever you are able to do to proclaim the Word of God to people in your life. Some of them will mock us. Some will hate us. But some will hear the Word, receive the Holy Spirit, and be saved and that is why we do everything we do. During Covid we had a majority of kids in confirmation and youth group who were not members of Trinity. Judy said to me once that it was a good thing our handful of youth had a lot of friends or we wouldn't have a youth group right now. What an amazing thing that God did. He positioned our youth to bring people to this place to hear God's Word when their own churches had shut down and their own pastors were cowering in their basements for fear of a virus. Our youth were the beautiful feet that brought the good news to those who had been abandoned by their churches.

Everything we do in this life is to help others to attain heavenly glory. That is God's goal for every human being. To attain heavenly glory. That's the point of this creative life we live. Not self-aggrandizement. Not money, power, or fame. Not even happiness.

Like everything else, it is not about us. It is about those who are disconnected from God. They are our only mission in this life starting with our own families and broadening out from there.

When you devote your life to being the feet that bring the good news, you find peace, contentment, joy, and everything else that comes with being safe in the arms of Jesus. No other world view is going to get you that. So, focus always on your calling. Were you a perfect parent? No, you were not. You were a poor miserable sinner. But did you introduce your child to Jesus? That's what matters. Are you a perfect child, spouse, brother, or sister? No, you absolutely were not. But did you seek to radiate the love of God in lives of those around you so that the Holy Spirit might travel from you into others? That's what matters.

Attaining Heavenly Glory. That's what matters because everything we did or didn't do in this life will be immaterial when we are together in paradise for eternity. Everything we do in this life whether it is telling little children about Jesus, helping developmentally challenged people express their gifts by coloring, or loading up the bins in the narthex with food for the food pantry, everything we do is geared toward leading people to the Holy Spirit where they will attain Heavenly Glory and spend all eternity with us. That's why, at Trinity, we are always growing in Christ.