

'Faith Comes from Hearing the Message'

READ Romans 10vv5-15

- Which passage of Scripture means most to you – and can you say why?

The REALITY of our FAITH

'Faith comes by hearing the message' 10v17 is our text/theme.

- What do you think are the obstacles to people 'hearing' the Gospel message in the UK of 2013?
- And what can help people to hear that message?
- Can you share with your group the period in your life when you 'heard' the Good News clearly for the first time? What were the circumstances and what factors contributed to you 'hearing' clearly at that time?

The ROOT of our FAITH

- How important to you is the 'Ministry of the word' in a Sunday service?
 - Do we place too much/too little/just the right amount of emphasis on the sermon?
- Other denominations often have a much shorter 'slot' for the message each Sunday (e.g. the Catholic 'homily' in the Mass). Others expect much longer than the standard 20 minutes.

- What is the 'right' length for 'The Word' as part of our Sunday worship?
- Do you find that the message on Sunday 'ferments' in your life during the week?

The RESULT of our FAITH

'...how can they hear without someone preaching to them...how can anyone preach unless they are sent?'vv14 & 15

We will all know of men and women who are 'sent out' as missionaries to other lands. But now missionaries from other countries come to us to evangelise the UK.

- What are your thoughts about this situation?
- Do you have to be specially appointed to be an evangelist, before you can spread the Gospel?

If time permits, **READ Romans 15vv1-5**, focussing on v4.

- Can you give examples from your own Christian experience of how *'the endurance taught in the Scriptures'* has given you both encouragement and

hope?

- What would you say to someone who considers the Bible merely as 'fuel' to put on a fire?