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**We Are Sent**    St. Andrew, apostle    Friday, November 30, 2018    **Rom 10:9-18;**    Mt 4:18-22    (There is something we can do and there is someone we can touch.)

**“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**

St. Paul is here reflecting on a mystery that he doesn't quite comprehend, that none of us does.

**How does salvation actually come about?** Well here he is focusing on the role of messaging, also called **evangelization, getting the message out.** He is reasoning that **if people don't hear, they won't respond.** But of course there're different ways of hearing. He says, “All who call upon the name the Lord will be saved,” but what if people don't know the name of the Lord? That's the basic question he raises, and it's never been answered in any complete way in our Church history, although **there are three basic responses that the various saints have made.**

I'll include the saints because speculations by people who have not become saints are even, well, perhaps less valuable. Anyway some of the saints, like for example Gregory of Nysa, say that eventually God's plan to save all people, which of course is Scripture, that **God wills to save all people, that's Scripture, that that plan will eventually be efficacious,** meaning utterly and totally effective, that God will like the “Hound of Heaven” pursue every last lost sheep until everyone has been found and returned to the fold. **The second view** is that God will include, **when “God is all in all,” that would include all people, except those who have willfully and deliberately joined forces with Satan** and opposed God's will and purpose and love in the world. And then **the third view is that God's will will be effective only for those who seek the will of God.**

Now the interesting thing is **all three of these viewpoints can be defended by various quotations,** but very clearly the New Testament does not completely go with any one of them. Sometimes it seems it's A, sometimes it's B, sometimes it's C.

So it's important on the feast of St. Andrew for us to remind ourselves that **we are in the midst of a mystery**, and we shouldn't be so sure we know what God is doing. All we know is that **God desires to save all, and we should do what we can to advance that cause**. And that's what it means to be **an apostle. It means to be someone who is sent**. We are all here to be sent and there's something and there's someone that we can touch. **There is something we can do and there is someone we can touch**, and that should be clear for all of us. Beyond that, we do not know.