

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to Romans 9

We just spent three months at the spiritual mountaintop that is ch 8 –

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through Romans – Paul’s letter to the believers in Rome and to us today about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of Grace

The Good News – that God dealt with the problem of sin.

That we can have a right standing before God in Christ

That His justice was satisfied.

And this is made available to everyone who wants to receive it.

Everyone who is disconnected before God because of their sin –

God has made one way – and one way alone, to be reconciled.

[Rom 1:16-17 NKJV] 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Paul – as he is inspired by the Holy Spirit wants the reader to grasp that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone –

And we have to remember that the early church consisted of mostly Jewish converts – as the gospel spread from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria – just as Jesus had said – and then to the rest of the rest of the world – as God used Paul to bring the gospel to the gentiles – as the gospel spread – more and more Gentiles were being saved

They embraced the gospel of grace more than the Jew

But one of the things that we see from Paul – is his heart for the Jew –

Paul loved his fellow Jew and had a strong desire for them to come to repentance and embrace the gospel of grace.

And we will see the extent of his love over the next few weeks as we study ch 9,10,11

And as we do –

Paul will have to address this question - if God is sovereign in salvation, if God chooses those whom He will save from before the foundation of the world, and if God irresistibly calls to faith in Jesus Christ every one of His chosen ones, as we just saw in Romans 8, then why are God's chosen people, Israel, still in unbelief?

Let's pray...

Read Text –

When we read the historical account of the church history – in the book of Acts,

As the Holy Spirit began to move and empower Jesus disciples – and as God added to the church,

We are introduced to someone who wanted to do everything in his might to stop what God was doing.

He was a religious fanatic.

He persecuted the early church – he believed that all Christians must be eradicated and he went out to kill them and to imprison them all in the name of God.

Of course – I am talking about the Apostle Paul

But then – something happened to Paul.

On the road to Damascus – he had an encounter with God

He got saved.

His eyes were opened.

His heart was transformed and he then sought to convert the Jews.

However, the Jews for the most part – were not receptive to the Gospel of Grace that Paul brought and they turned on him.

They thought that Paul was a traitor

That Paul turned his back on them

Paul was accused of embracing the Gentiles and abandoning his own people.

They imprisoned him, they sought to harm him – they wanted to do whatever they could to stop Paul from preaching the gospel.

In fact, in the book of Acts 23 – we find out that 40 men take an oath that they would not eat or drink until they had killed Paul.

Were they able to do it – no, because God put a hedge around Paul.

So, even as many of the Jews have rejected the Gospel of Grace and rejected Jesus as their Lord and Savior – Paul will take one more opportunity to share with the Jews a reminder of God's faithfulness in their past – God's faithfulness in the present times – and God's faithfulness to the Jew in the future – that God has a special place for the Jews in His heart and one day He will regather and restore Israel and fulfil the ancient promises made to David and Abraham and others in the Old Testament.

So Paul is willing to suffer whatever sacrifices is necessary to preach Christ crucified because he wants his people saved.

So – let's look at our text

[Rom 9:1-5 NKJV] 1 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart.

Now again, we keep everything in context.

Paul was on the spiritual mountaintop – Romans 8

He had just shared with us all the amazing promises that the believer that walks in the Spirit has –

No condemnation – for those who are in Christ

No Separation – for those who are in Christ

That God the Father is for us, that the Holy Spirit is for us as He intercedes on our behalf, that Jesus is for us as He intercedes for us instead of condemning us.

That all things work together for the good for those who love God.

And all of it leads to a tugging of his heart –

He remembers his Jewish roots.

He remembers his Jewish family.

He has this urgency, this motivation toward those who are lost, those who are still separated, those who are still estranged from God.

He is providing them – why he is steadfast in sharing the gospel with them.

Back in 1991 – when I received Jesus Christ into my heart – when my eyes were opened to the gospel –

One of my first responses was – I have to tell those that I love.

“They need to know this”

“They need to break away from the bondage of religion”

“They need to know that we have freedom in Christ.”

Was my message rejected? Yes – by many

Was I laughed at and mocked? Yes

Was I told, this will come to pass? Yes

But it didn't stop that longing in my heart for them to come to repentance.

This is what Paul is stating here –

This is why I am doing this.

“What I am saying is the truth – in Christ”

“My conscious – led by the Holy Spirit – is my witness to the fact that what I am saying is true”

It is not about pride

It is not about saying – I told you so or I was right

Paul is motivated by sincerity

Paul is motivated by sorrow

Paul is motivated by unceasing grief

Paul is motivated by sacrificial love as he agonizes over his loved ones who have rejected the message of salvation – in Jesus

Paul's motivation is God's love – the same love that God demonstrated to him and to the believer.

Turn with me to Isaiah 6

Here in Isaiah 6 –

We find the prophet Isaiah – God has given him a vision, and he finds himself in God's throne room.

Isaiah experiences God's majesty

He beholds the Lord – and by the way, don't think of this as simply seeing the Lord physically – this is God's revelation

And we see Isaiah's response –

Starting in verse 5

[Isa 6:5-9 NKJV] 5 So I said: "Woe [is] me, for I am undone! Because I [am] a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."

So the first thing that we see Isaiah experience – he is convicted of his sin.

And he responds to the conviction as he confesses his sins

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal [which] he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth [with it], and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged."

So here in verse 7 – Isaiah was cleansed from his sin

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here [am] I! Send me." 9 And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'

Conviction – confession – cleansing – and now we have the last two c's, consecration and then commission.

Whom shall I send? Here I am, Send me - consecration

Go and tell the people – God's commission

Now – the reason we came to Isaiah 6 is because this is a picture of Romans 1-8

These are all things that Paul has experienced and now – he is fulfilling his calling – God's commission.

God has done a work in us – so that He could do a work through us.

God didn't just save us so that we can go to heaven

He saved us so to give us our commission.

The call in our life, to be salt, to be light – to make us fishers of men.

In Matthew 10:8 – Jesus tells His disciples and us – freely you have received, freely give.

The believer has received this blessing in our life, this relationship – or response is that we tell somebody.

He saved us to send us.

And we do this as we lean on the Holy Spirit – because we cannot do a spiritual work if we rely on the flesh.

And so that is Paul's motivation in bringing the message of salvation to both the Gentile and the Jew.

3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,

This is an amazing statement by Paul

His sorrow and continual grief for the Jew is such that he would be willing to be condemned in exchange for all the Jews to be able to be saved.

Remember – some of the people that Paul is speaking of here (those that he is asking to switch places with) are the same people that are trying to harm him, they are the same people that were causing riots wherever Paul went. Those that considered Paul an enemy.

So what we have here in this verse – is a picture of Paul's heart

His attitude toward the lost.

By the way – this sacrificial love is something that we see in the life of Paul throughout scripture.

[Phi 1:19-21 NKJV] 19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live [is] Christ, and to die [is] gain.

In Acts 21 –

Luke tells us that a prophet by the name of Agabus –

He gives a visual demonstration of what is going to happen to Paul when he gets to Jerusalem

So everyone around Paul is trying to prevent Paul from going to Jerusalem –

And so Paul responds -

[Act 21:12-13 NKJV] 12 Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

This was the heart of Paul!!!!

Now, I want to show you the similarities between Paul and an Old Testament figure who made a statement similar to the one that Paul makes here in Romans 9.

We are going to be looking at Moses and the heart that he had for God's people.

Turn with me to Book of Exodus 32

Here in Exodus – Moses had been on Mt Sinai where God was giving him the law and the how He wanted the people to worship Him.

And it was during this time that the people got tired of waiting for Moses – and they turned to Aaron to make them the golden calf – and they began to worship it.

They wanted to worship God on their own terms.

So the Lord sends Moses down to confront the people –

[Exo 32:7-10 NKJV] 7 And the LORD said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted [themselves]. 8 "They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This [is] your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!' " 9 And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it [is] a stiff-necked people! 10 "Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation."

Now – the question that we should ask ourselves is why did God tell this to Moses –

Why did God give Moses this commission – “Go, get down”

Why didn't God simply consume the Children of Israel.

I truly believe that the reason that God told Moses was because He wanted to draw out something out of Moses.

He wanted to draw out the heart of a shepherd.

He wanted Moses to see for himself whether or not he was a true shepherd or simply a hireling who would abandon his sheep.

So let's see what Moses did –

Go down to verse 32

[Exo 32:30-32 NKJV] 30 Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." 31 Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! 32 "Yet now, if You will forgive their sin--but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."

Moses response to God's commission -

Moses interceded and asked if he could absorb God's wrath instead.

Which is the same thing that Paul does in Romans 9:3

Moses heart is just like Paul

Both of them said the same thing – their words revealed their heart and love for the people.

They were both educated.

They both committed murder.

They both had a desert experience and a spiritual encounter with God

Both of them experienced a thorn in their side - Remember - Moses couldn't speak - he had been talking to sheep for 40 years - so he stuttered a lot. And of course, Paul had a thorn in his side as well and he had his own physical ailments.

They both forsook riches to be with God's people

Both of them were leaders

Both of them were Jews

Both of them were willing to die

Both of them were servants of God.

Both Moses & Paul took their wild stand because they understood something about the heart of God.

They knew He's patient

They knew He is longsuffering and merciful.

They knew God so well, they understood He will go to great lengths to forgive –

Even to the point where He would become a man & bear in His own body on the Cross all the punishment for sin.

4 who are Israelites, to whom [pertain] **the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service [of God], and the promises;**

Paul is talking about what wonderful privileges the Jews have had.

1. Adoption - We see this had taken place by the time that God sent Moses to deliver Israel from Egypt: **[Exo 4:22-23 NKJV] 22 "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel [is] My son, My firstborn. 23 "So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn." ' "**
[Deu 7:6-8 NKJV] 6 "For you [are] a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. 7 "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; 8 "but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
2. glory – (or the presence of God) When Israel journeyed from Egypt, they often saw the glory of God in the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night - **[Exo 16:10 NKJV] 10 Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation**

of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

The glory was also seen on top of the mercy seat.

3. Covenants - God made several "covenants" or agreements with Israel, the main one being the Mosaic Law.
4. Another privilege that the nation of Israel had was that God gave them the privilege of knowing how to worship Him, how to offer up sacrifice.
5. God made promises to the nation of Israel – the Messiah being one of them.

Here is the point in all of this –

Paul is showing the Jew that in their rejection of the Gospel of Grace –

Apart from Christ -

Theirs is a future apart from God.

Disconnected from God

Estranged from God

This is why Paul wished that he were accursed from Christ for His brethren.

5 of whom [are] the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ [came], who is over all, [the] eternally blessed God. Amen.

Once again, speaking of the privilege that the Jews had – Paul makes the point that The Jews were blessed because the Savior of the world, the Messiah, would come from them.

This describes the humanity of Jesus Christ -He was 100% man

But pay close attention to the last portion of verse 5

Because Paul makes the statement that counters all the arguments that the cults are quick to point out – that nowhere in the bible does it say that Jesus is God.

But here at the end of verse 5 – that is exactly what Paul says.

Christ is God

Paul is saying all of this because the blessings of God were given to Israel, so that Jesus Christ through Israel, might bless and save the world.

And in spite of these blessings

In spite of these gifts,

In spite of these privileges, Israel rejects the Mesiah

And these privileges apart from Christ – do not save you.

Paul is motivated by love

And in order to reach the people with the gospel that we love, we have to believe the gospel and love and trust Jesus and believe the word of God and be able to be sensitive to the needs of the people that God has placed in our lives to share the good news of the gospel of grace.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I

accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Rom 10:1 NKJV] 1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.

There are only two categories that people fall into –

Those that are in Christ (saved)

Those that are apart from Christ (lost)

May we have a heart like Paul for those that God has placed in our heart – to share the good news or to bring them to a place where they will hear the good news.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'