

THE ROMAN REVEALING
Theme: The Reign of Righteousness
From the Sermon Notebook of Dr. Doyce H. Nolan

SUBJECT: BURDENED FOR A LOST PEOPLE
SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 9:1-5

Introduction

In these opening verses of **chapter 9**, Paul reveals his heart for his people the Jews. In doing so, he teaches us a lesson about the kind of heart we should have for the lost around us.

I. A MANIFEST OBLIGATION. (1-3).

1. Paul's Honesty (1). I Say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscios also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

In previous chapters Paul has shared that without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ there is no hope of salvation. From this verse it appears that some people thought Paul was lying. He wants them too see that he is sincere about what he is saying and that he really cares about them. This is why he assures them that not only Christ is his witness, but also his conscios and the Holy Spirit testify to his honesty. Paul wants them to know that his message is absolutely true!

It is vitally important that believers operate from an honest heart! This lost must know that we love them and that we are concerned about them. **1 John 3:18. My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tougue; but in deed and in truth.** We must give them no reason to mistrust us; we must never be guilty of saying anything that is untrue or hypocritical to those outside of the

family of God. We may be the only hope they will ever have of coming to Jesus!

2. Paul's Heaviness (2). That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.

The two words “heaviness and sorrow” that Paul uses to describe his feelings for the lost, means his life is paralyzed by constant grief. He wants his listeners to know that he is operating under a heavy burden for them! Paul's heart is broken over the condition of the lost sinner. He lives under the constant burden of the reality that they are headed to Hell. The fact that they are perishing lies on his shoulders like a weight that is nearly impossible to carry.

Have you experienced this kind of burden for a lost family member, especially a child? Has it become a reality to you that these people are headed to Hell? Over the years I have witnessed the slow and gradual decline of the church in caring about the lost. Churches use to have a paper on the Lord's Table with the name of the lost in the community in order to pray for them. Now we live our lives and attend our worship services and never give them a second thought! When is the last time you were burdened to pray for a lost sinner? When was the last time God woke you up in the middle of the night so that you could seek His face for a person who was lost in sin? When was the last time that it moved you to think that men were going to Hell?

Most of us simply aren't affected by the condition of the lost sinner. We are sorry that he is lost, but not sorry enough to pray for him and tell him about Jesus!

3. Paul's Hunger (3). For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh.

What an astounding statement! Paul says that if it were possible, he would allow himself to be separated from God and sentenced to Hell if it would save the lost Jews! He knew that he was eternally secure in the Lord Jesus, but he was willing in his heart to go to hell that others might be saved. What a burden must have gripped this man's heart!

Illustration: I remember reading of a woman who became burdened for her drunken, abusive husband. He would not listen to the Gospel! He was a vile man and had no use for the church or for God. One time, there was a revival in the church where his wife attended and she invited the evangelist for dinner. When she set the table for the meal, she only set two plates, one for her husband and the other for their visitor. She did not set a plate for herself. When her husband brought this to her attention, she replied, "I am too burdened to eat. How can I eat when I know that any breath might be your last and that if you die you will go to Hell." She said, "I shall not eat any more food until the day you come to Christ as your Savior, but I shall pray for you and for your soul." He responded by laughing at her and telling her that he would never be saved! It wasn't many days until the husband became broken over his sins and came to know Jesus as His personal Savior.

II. A MISSED OPPORTUNITY. (4-5b).

1. God's Gifts To Israel (4-5a). Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers,

Israel had received many gifts from God. They had been given truth and revelation. They were in a special covenant relationship with Him and were considered to be His people. All of the Old Testament prophets and prophecies were given to them. All of the promises concerning the Messiah and the coming kingdom were given to them. The people of Israel had been given more light than any people group in their world. Yet, they became so bogged down in the letter of the Law and the religious rituals that they missed their Messiah when He came!

2. God's Grace To Israel (5b). And of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, When Messiah did come, He was born from among them as one of their own. No other people had ever had such a privilege! God became a man and was born among the Jewish people, yet when He revealed Himself to them, they refused to have Him rule over them, **John 1:11, Luke 19:14; John 19:15.** To come to that place, they had to ignore every prophecy concerning Him. They had to disregard every miracle and every proof that Jesus was the Messiah. They ignored their season of grace!

My friends, what have you done with the light you have been given? Have you responded to it by embracing Jesus and His salvation? Or, have you turned a deaf ear to the pleading of the Holy Spirit? Don't let your life be one that is summed up as a missed opportunity!

III. A MAGNIFICENT OBSERVATION (5c).

1. Concerning The Person Of Jesus. Christ came, Paul calls Him "*Christ*". This is a word that means "*Anointed*". Paul is simply reminding us that Jesus is the fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah. He is the One God

the Father promised to send. He is the One Who came to take away the sins of the world, **John 1:29. Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.** He is worthy of our faith, our love and our worship. He is the Christ! He is Lord and He is Saviour! May we never forget to love Him and honor Him as such!

2. Concerning The Power Of Jesus. , who is over all, Paul says that He is "**over all**". We must remember that Jesus is the agent of creation, **John 1:3**. We must remember that He possesses "**all power in heaven and in earth.**", **Matt. 28:18**. We must remember that He is "**King of Kings and Lord of Lords.**", **Rev. 19:16**. We must remember that **Jesus is the One Who holds all things together**, **Heb. 1:3**. Since He has that kind of awesome power, we can trust Him to be able to do everything He has promised us He will do. Friends, He is not the God Who was, He is still the **Great I AM**, **Ex. 3:14**. Simply stated, He is all you need!

3. Concerning The Position Of Jesus. God blessed for ever. Paul doesn't stop there. He goes on to remind us that Jesus is also God. Notice the phrase "**Christ came, who is over all, God blessed, for ever**" in **verse 5**. Paul is merely giving the saints of God another reason to rejoice! He is reminding us that Jesus is God! Since that is true, He is worthy of all the love, worship and devotion we can give Him. Are you exalting Him like you should?

Conclusion

Paul's theme in these five verses has been the salvation of the lost sheep of Israel. Paul does not want them to go to Hell! He wants to share with them the truth that his heart is broken for their condition and that he would do anything to see them saved by grace. I wonder if that is your heart for your lost neighbors or your lost family members. Are you burdened for them? How long has it

been since you brought their names up before the throne of grace?
How long has it been since you wept for those who are separated
from God by a gulf of sin? There is no better time to come before
the God of glory and seek His face for them than right now.