

Title: The Children of Promise

Do we really care? (Do you care enough to respond)?

Text: Romans 9:1-5

Will you take your Bibles, please, and open them to Romans chapter 9. Romans chapter 9 and beginning with Vs 1. We will read the first ⁵thirteen verses today. Romans chapter 9 verses 1-⁵5.

Now, so far in our study of Romans we have looked at the principles of God's righteousness, which are : CONDEMNATION...JUSTIFICATION.... SANTIFICATION....AND SECURITY.

And these principles effect very much what is said in chapter 9,10, and 11. This God ^{who} is righteous, who is just, and who is holy, as far as Paul is concerned, needs to explain something. And that is the rejection of Israel. Why do so many Jews fail to accept Jesus as their Messiah?

Now, many Jews have come to receive Jesus as their Messiah. But the majority of the nation, has not. And yet, all of the promises of the O.T. for Israel are to be fulfilled, according to the Bible. ~~And~~ so Paul is asking the question, WHAT ABOUT THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD TO WHAT HE PROMISED IN THE O.T., NOW THAT THE NATION HAS TURNED ITS BACK OF JESUS AS THE MESSIAH.

Paul knew it so well. His original opinion was that Jesus was not the Messiah. He persecuted Christians. And yet at one moment of time on the Damascas road through a miracle of God Paul was changed around. He became a new creature in Christ. So, he knew well their problems. ^{and that is what we} ~~Let's read~~ a little bit about it in Romans 9 verses 1 thru 5.

(3A) are going to look at in chapters 9-10-11. The Problem of God's Righteous. Let's Read

(Read 9:1-⁵5)

Will you join with me in a ^{moment} ~~moment~~ of prayer

(4B) In chapter 9 we are dealing with the rejection of Israel. And in these first ⁵ verses I would like you to see a ~~the first reason.~~

(1C) ~~First of all,~~ in the first 5 verses I would like you to notice the rejection of Israel that is seen in the sorrow of Paul. Paul reflects here his real sorrow of heart; ~~over what had happened~~ over what had happened to the nation as a whole.

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Romans chapter 9 is dealing with the rejection of Christ by the nation of Israel. Jesus was the promised Messiah. He came into his own and his own rejected him. And this rejection caused great sorrow in the heart of Paul.

And as I was studying these verses, I realized that there ^{are some} ~~is some~~ ~~important~~ ^{parallel} principles, here, for our lives. We all have friends, and loved ones, and family members who continually turn their backs on Jesus. I know that many of you pray daily for the salvation of a son or daughter, a husband or wife, a friend, a neighbor. . You know folks who are without Christ. And you desire, like Paul, that they should be saved. And there is pain and sorrow in your heart because these folks continue to reject Jesus.

So, I would like you to notice the sorrow in Paul's heart over Israel's rejection of Jesus. Paul cares very much. And he is expressing his care in these first 3 verses. And in understanding Paul's sorrow, maybe that will encourage each of us in the way we ought to feel about the non-believing world around us....and especially those folks that we know who are without Christ..... *What ought to be our attitude*

(1D) And the first thing that I would like you to observe in the first 3 verses is that Paul reveals his personal feelings. There are three things that he shares about those personal feelings that to me are almost a rebuke to the way that most of us who are believers in Christ feel about the non-believing world around us. Paul ~~carried~~ ^{cares} very much. And ~~he~~ ^{he} expresses his care in those first 3 verses.

(1E) The first thing that I would like you to notice is in verse 2. And that is that the Apostle Paul said that he had great sorrow for the people of Israel.

Now, he has warned us already in Vs 1 that this isn't just the emotional feelings of a man ^{of dispassion} ~~of dispassion~~. He is saying that he is telling the truth. Something that I know to be the truth. And my conscience is bearing witness in the Holy Spirit. ~~It could not believe him.~~ He constantly felt the burden and sorrow of this.

And the first thing is that he said he had great sorrow. Now ^{the} ~~the~~ word "sorrow" is the common word used for grief over the lose of a loved one.

Now, to those of you who have had the experience of losing a loved one, can you remember the grief that you experienced. That is what Paul is saying that he feels towards the non-believing Jews. Those who have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as their Messiah. He couldn't cast them off because they refused the gospel. He really cared. And he had great sorrow in his heart. ^{and that is the kind of sorrow we need to feel over those who reject Jesus}

(2E) The second thing he said in vs 2 is that he had unceasing grief in his heart. The word "unceasing" means "that it didn't stop." He went to bed with it. He got up in the morning with it. Unceasing grief for the people of Israel ^{over the rejection of Jesus}

The word ~~grief~~ "grief" carries with it the idea of distress and being tormented. This was no light burden. The Apostle Paul was bearing this continually. It never stopped. This ^{great sorrow} ~~unceasing~~ grief over the lost of a loved one as it were. And secondly he had unceasing grief because he knew the promises of God in the O.T. to his people. But he observed in his ministry the continually rejection of Israel to Jesus of Nazareth.

The Apostle Paul was not really that effective among the Jews. He was constantly arguing, proving, reasoning, debating with them. Jesus was the Messiah. He bore very little fruit. Most of his fruit was amongst the Gentiles. And Paul knew this well. ^{True} His heart is ^{like} crying out to God.

(3E) And the third thing he says is really dramatic in Vs 3 when he said "I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ, for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh."

The word "wish" is the normal word for "prayer." He is saying, "I could pray, I pray, that I would be ^{accursed} ~~accursed~~. That the curse of God would be upon me in behalf of my brethren so that the whole nation would turn to God. It would be worth it.

and friends, As you read these first 3 verses you sense a paradox. That we who know Jesus Christ and have the security that we are going to be in heaven, who know that we have escaped the wrath of God and the consequences that He calls Hell, we who know that...how can we continue to remain unconcerned for those around us who are non-believers and facing the consequences of the Gospel?

I think someone has rightly said that the reason that most of us do not feel that burden is because the average person is either ignoring or resisting the truth of God's Word about the ~~consequence~~ ^{trial} ~~trial~~ consequence. ~~trial~~ and more, now, in our day we see very little emphases on the consequences of the Gospel of Christ. And Paul, here, uses a strong word that we might even translate 'damned'. I wish that all that judgement and damnation would be upon me, if all Israel would be saved.

Why don't we feel that burden? I suggest that sometime today when you are by yourself, you just might take those first 3 verses and spend a few moments on the great concern Paul had for the non-believing Jews. And ask yourself..WHY..you do not feel that way...

Paul said "I become all things to all men that I might win a few." No matter what God ask of me I will do it in order that someone might be saved.

And yet, we go on day after day in our business and with our neighbors that we face and meet and we feel little concern... *over the fact*

I read in Matthew 9:34 that our Lord when he saw the multitudes he was moved with compassion on them.

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Do we really care? Is there great sorrow and unceasing grief and a desire to be crucified if that be the case in order that our friends and loved one come to Christ?

So, Paul, here, in dealing with the rejection of the Jews, *and* in his own sorrow reveals his personal feelings.

(2D) Now, beginning with Vs 4 we notice the sorrow of Paul as he realizes the blessings that the Jews had been promised in the O.T. He realized these blessings and this then caused more concern in his heart as to why in the world the rejection of Israel had occurred. You find 9 points listed in verses 4 and 5. Please look at them.

(1E) First of all, he says, "who are Israelites." They had a kingdom that was promised to them. And this kingdom was a Theocracy. A theocracy is God ruled. In the O.T. in the early days Israel was a Theocracy. A god ruled society. And a theocracy kingdom was promised to the Jews. That is why we have the word "Israelites."

The word "Hebrew" refers to their language. They spoke Hebrew. The word "Jew" is always used in contrast to the word "Gentile." Either Jew or Gentile. But in Genesis 32 we learn *why* the name "Israel" was given to the nation. Jacob, who was the father of the 12 sons who became the heads of the 12 tribes, had his name changed to "Israel" indicating his relationship to God and the building of a nation through his 12 sons. And from then on the nation is called Israel. They are Israelites and a theocracy kingdom was a promise of God to them. *They Had That Name and They rejected it.*

also
(2E) Secondly, we ~~are~~ so notice the blessing of being a spiritual family. The Bible says "to whom belongs the adoption as sons." The Jews were in a spiritual family. And Paul is looking at this and wondering why God has rejected his people if this is true.

(3E) The third thing we notice is the glory or the supernatural presence of God. That glory, by the way, we should all remember was visible. They saw it

When they came out of Egypt a cloud led them by day. And a pillar of fire by night. Over the Tabernacle the cloud of the glory of God rested. Also, when Moses went to the top of Mt. Sinai the cloud of the glory of the Lord was on that mountain.

Now, the glory of the Lord, because of the rejection of the nation by God, the cloud had departed. But when Jesus was born into this world as a little baby the glory of God came back in the physical body of Jesus Christ. God's glory was all there.

John wrote that the word became flesh and we beheld or ~~gazed~~ ^{looked} upon his glory, the glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. Now, Christ has ascended up into heaven. ~~Now~~ ^{So}, the glory of God is in believers. 2 Corinthians 4:6 says that "the God who commanded his light to shine out of darkness has shined in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

We who know that glory of God ~~is~~ being a treasure in earthen vessels, because of the presence of God's Holy Spirit...Praise God...

(4F) Vs 4 also says they had the covenants. The fourth thing would be the national agreements, or contracts, or covenants that God made with his people

Now, this doesn't deal with the covenant with Noah because that was for the whole world. That a flood would never come again upon the world. But it does deal at least with 5 covenants. And Paul is reminding all of us of those blessings upon Israel. Those contracts of God.

(1F) The first was the covenant with Abraham. This covenant guaranteed a seed that would be like the stars of the sky and the sand of the seashore. Now, Paul is saying, "How is that going to be fulfilled ~~if~~ if Israel is rejected?"

(2F) The second covenant is Moses' covenant. In this covenant you not only find the giving of the law, and the sabbath, but also the promise of a land. So, Paul says, "Hey, wait a minute, the Jews had the promise of a covenant. A promise of land where they would live.

(3F) Third, we have the covenant to David. This covenant guaranteed to David that a son of David, a King, would reign over the entire nation.

(4F) The fourth covenant was an everlasting priesthood promised to Phenhad.

This man had an everlasting priesthood. And Paul in his day with the corruption of the High Priestly system of the Jews no doubt wondered how this was going to be fulfilled.

(5F) And then there is the matter of a new covenant. Which God had said to the entire nation that one day he would literally take away all sin.

Now, we will not learn until Romans 11, but in Romans 11 we learn that in one day the entire sin of the nation of Israel will be removed. That is still coming. In one day all Israel will be saved. That is Romans chapter 11.

But Paul is now simply looking at the rejection which he saw everywhere in his own time. And still exist today, by the way, in ~~the~~ national aspect.

(5E) Then we notice, also, in Vs 5 the matter of the giving of the law.

And what a blessing this was. A perfect moral standard by which the Jews could evaluate their life and know what God's will was for them. And yet that which was ordained to life really became death to them. And it condemned them. Because if you offend at one point in that law you are guilty of all of it.

(6E) The sixth thing that I notice in Vs 4 is that the service of God was one of their blessings. Now, what does that mean? Well the word indicates the religious service of the priesthood in the tabernacle in the sacrifices. So, they had a perfect religious system. Which taught them by means of symbols and sacrifices and types all of the truths which God wanted for them.

Why now has God rejected them? Why were they ^{was} turning their backs on the Messiah?

(7E) The seventh thing that we notice at the end of Vs 4 is the promises.

All of the Messianic promises. These promises dealt with their health. These promises dealt with their land. It dealt with society in terms of justice and equality. And all of these promises, ^{they were rejected} what about them, says Paul.

(8E) The eighth thing that I notice in Vs 5 is that they had the famous ancestors. All of ^{their} fathers...Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. NOW WHY DID HE REMAIN THEM OF THAT? Because constantly to those fathers God promised all those great promises. He continually reminded them of the promises to the fathers. ^{are they are rejecting} NOW, IS GOD GOING TO FORGET THOSE PROMISES?

(9) And then the ninth thing, and I want you to look carefully at this in Vs 5...is that they would have a ~~of~~ divine messiah. A divine Messiah. Vs 5 says "and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all God blessed forever. Amen."

Have you ever run into people who say that no where in the Bible does it say that Jesus is God? Of course there are many passages that do say so. And here is a good example.

There are those, also, who say that the Messiah is never called God. In the O.T. he is called God several times. One of the best examples is Isa. 9 :6. "The child that shall be born, the son that will be given shall be called the MIGHTY GOD.

Here is an example from Romans 9. I would like to give it to you literally. In fact those of you who would like to witness to J.W. and others will want to use this text.

Here is what it says literally: OUT OF WHOM, THE MESSIAH, THE ONE ACCORDING TO FLESH, THE ONE BEING OVER ALL, GOD...BLESSED FOREVER...AMEN.

The Messiah is called God. And there is no doubt about who he was. It says, "According to flesh." Now, if ~~he~~ had left that out we would wonder who he was talking about. But, No, Paul is talking about Jesus Christ. And it is the Jews who had the promise of a divine Messiah who would come as man. And yet he was God. God blessed forever. God in human flesh.

And Paul's great sorrow that is poured out-off his heart as he realized all of these things belong to the nation. And yet, now they were turning their backs on the Messianic hope centered right in the person of Jesus.

You know, it occurs to me that we have the same problem, today. You can have all the knowledge, all of the instruction, all the religious background, all of the advantages of hearing about Jesus Christ personally, and yet turn your back on him. And never come to know this wonderful personally relationship with Jesus Christ.

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