



## **Romans Ch. 9: 1.5**

Paul's anguish and perplexity  
over his own people, Israel.



# Introduction

- Make a list of at least 3 tangible ways God has shown his inseparable love for you.
- Make a list of at least 3 benefits and privileges you enjoy or have enjoyed as a member of Valley Presbyterian Church.
- Make a list of at least 2 family members that have been exposed to the benefits of the visible church but haven't come to Christ yet.



# Review / Context – Chapter 8

- Romans 7 – The Failure of the Law to Save You
- Romans 8 – The Power of the Spirit to Save You
- Romans 8 Summary
  - 1-17: The Ministries of the Spirit (i.e. indwelling, liberating, witnessing, sanctifying)
  - 18-27: Future glory, our final freedom in which the whole creation will share
  - 28-39: The Steadfastness of God's Love



# Review / Context – Last Week

- 5 Unshakeable Convictions (28)
  - God works or is at work in our lives
  - God is at work for the good of **His** people
  - God works for our good in all things
  - God works for the good of those who love him
  - God works for the good of those who are called according to His purpose
- 5 Undeniable Affirmations (29-30)
  - God foreknows His children (personally, not just intellectually)
  - God predestines His children to life
  - God call His children to himself (irresistibly)
  - God justifies His children
  - God glorifies His children
- 5 Unanswerable Questions (31-39)
  - If God is for us who is against us? (Devil, world against us but none will prevail)
  - How will He not also with Him freely give us all things? (He will, gave us His Son)
  - Who will bring a charge against God's elect? (No one will bring an effective charge)
  - Who condemns us? (There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus, 8:1)
  - Who shall separate us from the Love of Christ (No one, nothing can separate us)



## **Chapter 9:1-5 Paul's Anguish & Perplexity with Israel**

### ■ Overview

- Chapters 9-11 transition from Paul exhilaration in being one of God's children to wrestling over God's purposes in those who reject him.
- Paul's affirmation of his honest and true concern for his people, Israel (1)
- Paul confesses Jewish unbelief causes him anguish of heart (2-3)
- Paul confesses Jewish unbelief is perplexing him in the light of their unique privileges (4-5)

### ■ A 3-fold Affirmation of honest concern (1)

- "I speak the truth in Christ" – conscious of relationship to Christ
- "I am not lying" (or even exaggerating)
- "My conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit (human conscience is fallible)
- Why would Paul have to make these affirmations?
  - Acts 21:27-28
  - Accused of maligning and speaking against the Jewish people
  - Accused of speaking against the Law
  - Falsely accused of bringing gentiles into the temple
- What's this truth he asserts with such vigor? His love for his people Israel who have rejected the Christ, the Messiah (2-3)



## Chapter 9:1-5 Paul's Anguish & Perplexity with Israel

- Paul's Sorrow and His Unattainable Wish (2-3)
  - "Great sorrow" – deep, overwhelming sadness
  - "Unceasing grief" – endless morning deep in his gut over the lost (John 11:35)
  - "My brethren" - brothers
  - "My kinsmen according to the flesh"- his race, his heritage, his flesh and blood
  - Membership in Christian brotherhood does **not** cancel natural ties (family, nationality)
  - "I wish I myself were accursed, cut off from Christ" (3)
    - Likes Moses Exodus 32:31-32
    - Impossible in light of Romans 8:35, 38 (nothing can separate us from Christ)
    - Would entertain it if possible, Paul is grasping at substitutionary love, like a parent would suffer or die for their suffering/dying child.
  - Do you experience great sorrow for the lost, for your lost family members?  
What are you doing about it?



## **Chapter 9:1-5 Paul's Anguish & Perplexity with Israel**

- Paul's Anguish in Light of Israel's Unique Privileges (4-5)
  - Adoption as sons – His chosen people, set apart Ex. 4:22, Hosea 11:1, Jer. 31:9
  - Visibly experienced God's divine glory – the temple, Mt. Sinai, 2Sam 6:2, Lev. 16:2
  - The Covenants
    - With Abraham Gen. 17:2
    - Moses Ex. 24:3-8
    - David 2Sam. 23:5
  - Received the Law – God's revelation, Word given to Israel, spoken by His voice, written by His finger, Deut. 9:10
  - Temple Worship consisting of service, regulations, sacrifices
  - The Patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David
  - Theirs is the ancestry of Christ/Messiah – Christ genealogy is traced to the father of faith Abraham by Matthew and to the first man, Adam, by Luke
  - From who is the Christ, who is overall God, blessed forever, Amen – Messiah is overall and forever to be praised. What a heritage, what a privilege



## **Chapter 9:1-5 Paul's Anguish & Perplexity with Israel**

### ■ Summary, Conclusions

- Shouldn't Israel favored with these blessings recognize and welcome Messiah?
- How in light of Paul's experience of God's inseparable love, the power of his Holy Spirit and the joy of salvation (Romans 8) could he reconcile God's hardening of Israel's heart and Israel's rejection of Christ, the Messiah?
- Come next week to hear the answer (Alfred's teaching)

### ■ Group Discussion Questions

- Discuss your answers to the 3 introductory questions
- Reflect on why God should chose to save you
- Reflect on why some of those experiencing the benefits and privileges of being in the visible church, maybe even baptized, should reject Christ
- Define some specific steps you will take as God's children and the instruments of salvation that He uses to try and help those who are lost come to the Savior (take another look at your list of those you know who haven't come to Christ)