

## **Romans 9:1-5 – A Hunger for Lost Souls**

TSK, GreekLexicon, Trapp, Robertson, Poole, PNT, Henry, Koning, JFB, Geneva, Family, Clarke, Calvin, Barnes, Armstrong, Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: It pained Apostle Paul that his own people, **the Jews, the ones who were the first to be offered salvation, had treated their glorious and gracious salvation with contempt.** He knew how **Jesus cried for them.** He knew they had **killed the Holy One of God.** He knew they had **joined in a conspiracy with Rome** to do so. But **yet, he longed to see them return** ...return from trying to save themselves by works and **return to salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.**

**To begin that process of seeing them return, he showed them the grave danger they were in!** What he was doing here was “like dipping the nail tip in oil so it could be driven in better. (Henry) Hear about this today.

Our headings are:

**Sad because his brothers were lost and under God’s eternal curse**

**Sad because his brothers ignored God’s Old Testament covenant blessings**

**Sad because his brothers ignored God’s New Testament covenant blessings**

Our goals are: **That you will learn to pine for the lost, pray for them, and then proclaim the message of hope to them.**

### **Sad because his brothers were lost and under God’s eternal curse**

1 **I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying,** my conscience also bearing me **witness in the Holy Spirit,**

**1. Apostle Paul declared his almost insupportable sorrow that many of his countrymen – the Jews – children of Abraham, were not believers in Jesus Christ and would therefore be reserved for hell.**

**Note how Apostle Paul repeats his statements for emphasis:** I tell the truth...I’m not lying.

**He then claimed another witness: The Holy Spirit...**the one who is known as the Spirit of Truth.

2 that I have **great sorrow** and **continual grief in my heart.**

**2. Apostle Paul then declared under oath:**

**a. His sorrow was like that of a woman in labor.** This speaks of the intensity of his sorrow.

**b. His sorrow was without end...continual.** There was no break in his sorrow.

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

**3. Apostle Paul’s hurt and concern was so great he wondered if God could choose to send him to hell by God so his countrymen would be saved from their sins.**

He knew what hell was like—a place of eternal torment, but he wished he could to be “**devoted to destruction**” for the sake of his countrymen. **This was similar to what Moses had offered God for the sake of his fellow Israelites.** (Exodus 32:32)

**But he couldn’t be accursed for them and he knew it! Election is a gift of God and it was not the Apostle Paul’s to give and give up his place in glory for the Jews.** More, he was not a fit sacrifice for his people. So he was really saying, “If I could, I would, but I can’t!” We say things like that! “If I could, I would give the last drop of my blood for my child.”

### **4. Lessons:**

**a. Learn to have intense continual pain for the lost Jews, for lost Gentile brothers, and for straying covenant children** who are rejecting the promise made at their baptism! Cry out to God for them. They are going to hell without the Savior. The Jews and covenant children are in the worst case as they have had the Word of God and choose to ignore it. Curses are on them!

**1 Corinthians 16:22** If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!

**b. Learn not to give token support to the preaching of the Gospel, but really support it.** Don’t say, “I will **pray**,” but then don’t pray. It looks good to say you will pray, but that is not good enough. Also, **give** and **encourage** those who share the Gospel.

**c. As long as there is life, there is hope for your lost friends and relatives.** Don’t stop praying and working for their salvation.

### **Sad because his brothers ignored God’s old covenant blessings**

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;

**1. The reason this was so painful to Apostle Paul was that his countrymen had much help from God in the past that would have made it easy for them to trust in the Savior, but they didn’t trust in him.**

**2. What are some of those blessings Old Testament Jews had that should have led them to cry out to the Lord for their salvation?**

**a. They were adopted.** This is not speaking of the unbelievers’ adoption in Christ. This was speaking of the choosing of the Jews to be God’s children by covenant. Even Jesus distinguished the Jews from the Gentiles.

**Exodus 4:22** "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "**Israel is My son, My firstborn.**

**Jeremiah 31:9...**For I am a Father to Israel, And **Ephraim is My firstborn.**

Matthew 15:26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

**b. They knew God's glory.** They had seen God's glory many times, like when God's glory descended on Mt. Sinai, or when the temple built by Solomon was dedicated, **but they ignored the wonder they saw.** They even saw God's glory in the might miracle of the opening of the Red Sea and the multiple opening of the Jordan River at flood time. They saw the removal of that glory during Ezekiel's time, as God's glory moved away from the temple. Look at another example:

1 Samuel 4:22 And she said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."

**c. They were in the covenant – having the 10 commands.** They had the privileged position of being marked in the covenant and included in the covenant - the covenant which Christ would keep for them. (Genesis 15) and they would just receive it, but they ignored the benefits of the covenant.

**d. They were given the law – the laws for Israel, national laws.** Some savagely treated others, making up their own laws. But God gave the Jews the laws that were good for them, bringing them great prosperity, but they were not interested. They loved themselves and not God and their neighbors, so they brought judgment on themselves.

**e. They saw the service of God in the tabernacle – the ceremonials laws.** They saw the blood and the gore, showing what they deserved, in the services at the temple. They saw the wonder of eating meals with each other and with God, but they ignored the beauty and blessings of doing so.

**f. They had the promises of God – which is the Gospel** – which brings comfort and blessings in this life and the assurance, by faith, of the eternal and rich blessings of heaven. But they rejected God's promises. They did not care that God promised to destroy all their enemies – including the Devil.

Acts 2:39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

### **3. Lessons:**

**a. Look at the reality: Man fell short of the Shekinah – the glory of God. Man needed God.**

Romans 3:23 for **all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**

**b. But the Lord's Shekinah glory came to shine again on man, as was predicted, first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles:**

Isaiah 60:1 **Arise, shine; For your light has come!** And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.

Ephesians 2:12 that at that time you were **without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel** and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

**c. Reflect on your adoption, the wonder of God's glory, your inclusion in the covenant of grace, in the just laws that bring blessings for obedience, in the wonder of worship when you speak to the God of the universe and he speaks back to you, and in the rich and eternal blessings he has promised you through Jesus, now and for the future.**

**d. After reflecting on these wonderful covenant blessings, remain faithful.** Don't stray.

**e. All who try to earn their salvation by good works are enemies of the Gospel.** Don't be close to them. Don't marry them.

### **Sad because his brothers ignored God's new covenant blessings**

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

**1. Apostle Paul's Jewish brothers who rejected God's new covenant blessings were from father Abraham's**

**loin, and though Abraham looked forward to Jesus' day and rejoiced he would die on the cross for their sins, there were many of the Jews who rejected the rich covenant blessings in Jesus.**

God had promised blessings to 1000 generations and he kept his word, but they rejected the promise.

Romans 1:3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,

**Apostle Paul was intentionally teaching of the humanity of Jesus,** jolt the Jewish mind!

**2. Apostle Paul further showed Jesus was able to accomplish the job of saving the Jews.**

**This was intentionally teaching of the Divinity of Jesus.** This made Jesus the perfect Savior. Jesus himself said if the Jews believed in him, they would not perish but have everlasting life.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**"

**3. Jesus, and later, his disciples, confirmed he was the source of blessings – the source of their salvation – the salvation many Jews were rejecting.**

Acts 20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, **to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.**

Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our **great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**

**4. Lessons:**

**a. Jesus, the infinite God-man, gave you the blessings of salvation, something he was the only one fit to do, and he did so willingly.** He fully kept the covenant for you and took your punishment for breaking the covenant. Promise made; promise kept.

**b. Reflect on the fact you have 2 helpings of nourishment each Sunday and the Lord's Supper and baptism's regularly.** Let that nourish you with the fact you are loved and cared for. Don't rob your children of these meals! **By the way, if the sermons aren't about Christ and his work, it is like eating desserts and not getting the food you need.** It might taste good, but it isn't good for you.

**c. You are privileged to have the infinite God and man as your Covenant Keeper.** Count it a privilege.

**d. Since it is a privilege, let your lips be filled with praise for this Covenant Keeper's work for you.**

**Conclusion:**

Apostle Paul knew **his brothers were under the curse** because they rejected their only hope: The Lord Jesus. He knew they ignored the covenant in the Old Testament and the Covenant in the New Testament – both pointing to Christ. **So he pined for them.**

Beloved in the Lord Jesus:

**1. Pine for the lost.** Start with your family, your church family, your circle of friends, your co-workers, and the leaders of our country. Know what their future is without Christ. It is very, very dull.

**2. Pray for them as if their lives depended on knowing Christ, because it does.** Pray for the Jews. Pray for those who have been raised in the covenant and are ignoring God's promise to them. Jews and covenant children will be punished worse than those who never heard the Gospel.

**3. Proclaim God's truth to them for without it, they will be lost forever. Show them the danger they are in!**

Finally: If you are not a Christian, know there is no hope apart from the one and only Savior, the one who kept God's covenant for his children, so God could assign his benefits to the ones for whom he died. Ask him to assign those benefits you. These are benefits you don't want to die without!