

# GREAT HEAVINESS AND CONTINUED SORROW

## ROMANS 9:1-5

Text:

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 tonight.

## 1. PAUL'S HONESTY

### **Romans 9:1**

<sup>1</sup>I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

Paul has shared a lot of truth. Truth that if taken literally proved that outside of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ there was no hope of salvation. Some people, hearing the message of Paul, may have been tempted to think that Paul was lying.

Paul wants these people to know that he has a heart for them.

It is vital that believers operate from an honest heart! This world must know that we love them and that we are concerned about them. John warned us about a false love. He told us that true love manifests itself in action on behalf of others, 1 John 3:18.

### **1 John 3:18**

<sup>18</sup> My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

## **2. PAUL'S HEAVINESS (VS. 2)**

### **Romans 9:2**

<sup>2</sup> That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.

Paul wants his readers to know that he is operating under a heavy burden for the lost! Like a mother who has lost a child, 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 weigh that is nearly impossible to carry.

That is the kind of burden that we should be under this evening for the lost.

## **3. PAUL'S HUNGER (VS. 3)**

### **Romans 9:3**

<sup>3</sup> For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

Paul makes a statement that is astounding! He 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!

I wonder if we have ever been to the place where we would be willing to pray a similar prayer.

I wonder if we are burdened enough for the lost sinner that we would pray for the Lord to save them regardless of what it took to do it.

Could we say, "Father, if it means that I must be stricken, or even if I must die, save them from Hell!"?

When our burden grows to the place that it consumes us with its weight, we will pray that kind of prayer.

When we get that serious, we will see the Lord speak to hearts!