

## The Great Sorrow and Unceasing Anguish of Missing Christ

Romans 9:1-5

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### Overview:

- I. The Righteousness of God (1:1-3:20)
- II. The Grace of God (3:21-8:39)
  - A. Justified by grace (3:21-5:21)
  - B. Transforming grace (6:1-8:39)
- III. The Plan of God (9:1-11:26)

**Big Idea:** God's grace should move us to grieve over the lost and motivate us not take for granted our blessings in Christ.

### 1. God's grace should move us to grieve over the lost (9:1-3).

#### a. Why did Paul experience great sorrow and unceasing anguish for the lost?

- (1) Because he had received the righteousness of God through faith in Christ.

**Romans 3:21–25** 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

- (2) Because he had a genuine love for his people (vv. 1-3).

- (3) Because he knew the consequences for rejecting Christ was eternal damnation (v. 3).

**Luke 10:16** "The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

#### b. How did Paul express in a tangible way his desire to reach the lost?

- (1) By praying

**Romans 10:1** Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.

- (2) By serving (Acts 20:18-21)

**Acts 20:18–21** And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, 19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; 20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, 21 testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

- (3) By giving

**Philippians 4:15** And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only.

(4) By going

**Romans 15:24** I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.

## 2. God's grace should motivate us to not take for granted our spiritual blessings in Christ (9:4-5)

### a. To them belong . . .

(1) The adoption (Ex. 4:22).

(2) The glory (Ex. 13:21-22; 16:9-10) (Ex. 40:34-35) (1 Kgs. 8:10-11)

(3) The covenants (Gen. Ch.15, 17, 28) (Ex. 2) (2 Sam. 7) (Ezek. 36:24-27; Jeremiah 31:31-34)

(4) The giving of the law (Ex. Ch. 19-20; Deut. 6:1-22)

(5) The worship (Ex. 25-40; Leviticus)

(6) The promises

**Romans 1:1-4** Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh<sup>4</sup> and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

> God has blessed us in Christ.

**Ephesians 1:3-8** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight

> We have been adopted (Rom. 8:14-16), we have seen his glory (2 Cor. 4:6), we are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 16-20), we have access to God (Rom. 5:1-2) and we are experiencing the blessings of the new covenant (Jer. 31:33-34; Ezek. 36:24-28).

> These blessings should move us to present ourselves as living sacrifice to God as an act of worship (Rom. 12:1).

### b. To them belong the patriarchs

### c. From them the Christ

(1) His humanity – “from their race, according to the flesh is the Christ,”

**John 1:1, 14** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(2) His deity – “who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen”

**Ephesians 1:20-23** that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.