

HOPE for NKY

There is HOPE: A Burden for the Lost...

The NKY Baptist Association is collaborating in prayer, messages, and action to proclaim the Gospel in our community. There is an epidemic in society and culture pulling people's hearts, minds, and spirits away for the only HOPE they could ever have. The result of that epidemic is a community filled with our own family, friends, and neighbors who lack faith, lack hope, and lack an eternal home. But, there is HOPE. And, when we understand the glory of the Gospel and the tragedy of unbelief, we will develop a deep burden for the lost.

Church Affiliation in NKY

	2010	2020
Kentucky	13.9%	14.6%
Campbell	7.1%	6.1%
Pendleton	10.5%	10.3%
Bracken	7.9%	16.8%
Kenton	5.9%	6.5%

These statistics are alarming. The answer starts in our own hearts and homes:

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.
(3 John 1:4)

The Empty Chair: today, tomorrow, and forever.

1 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. 4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. 5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. Romans 9:1-5

We need a Sincere Heart of Sorrow

1 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. Romans 9:1-2

Paul's burden was honest and Spirit-confirmed
Paul's sorrow was intense and unrelenting

Jesus wept over the lost, "And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it," Luke 19:41

What's the Point?

Do we feel sorrow for the lost or do we feel indifference?

Broken hearts must become sacrificial hearts. What are we going to do about it?

What was Paul willing to do about it?

We Need a Willingness to Sacrifice

3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. Romans 9:3

Paul's love reflects Christ-like selflessness

Paul's desire is extreme

What's the Point?

How far are we willing to go to see someone come to Jesus?

What sacrifices are we willing to make? Time, comfort, reputation?

Paul had skin in the game...he was living the sacrifice daily. We must start now because the lost are in peril.

The Lost are in Peril

4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. 5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. Romans 9:4-5

The tragedy of comfort, complacency, and apathy

- Adoption – God called them His children.
- Glory – They saw His presence in the tabernacle.
- Covenants – Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic.
- Law – God's very Word.
- Worship – The priesthood, sacrifices, feasts.
- Promises – Of a coming Messiah.
- Patriarchs – Their own heritage was rich.

The ultimate gift is Jesus!

What's the point?

You can grow up around truth and still miss salvation. We have a community with churches...but many drive right by them. We have people who have been around it...but have never responded. Maybe that's you. The Jews didn't need to work harder...we/they needed Jesus.

Where do we go from here

Are we broken for those who don't know Christ, especially for those who have had opportunities to believe and have not? Ultimately, Jesus does what Paul couldn't. He does exchange places...and offers to set us free.

Let's ask ourselves:

- Do I carry a burden for the lost like Paul did?
- Am I more interested in my comfort than in people's eternal destiny?
- Do I love Jesus? Enough to weep, enough to pray, enough to go?

When the gospel is precious to us, the lost become urgent to us.

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – Do we feel sorrow for the lost? Who do you know, in your family and closest relationships, who do NOT know Jesus and face an eternity of wrath?

Tuesday – We have to overcome our own fear and doubts to proclaim Jesus. How far are you willing to go to see someone come to Jesus? Do you love them enough to give your time, comfort, reputation?

Wednesday – You can grow up around truth and still miss salvation. We have a community with churches...but many drive right by them. We have people who have been around it...but have never responded. What changed your mind and brought you to the Lord?

Thursday -- Do you carry a burden for the lost like Paul did? Who is that person. Pray for them. Reach out to them. Find a way to tell them your story about God (not you). How did God change you?

Friday – Do you love Jesus? Enough to see through His eyes? Enough to weep for the lost? Enough to pray for them? Enough to bring them to Jesus?