

## Romans part 35

### “Unreasonable Love”

If you break the book of Romans into sections, chapters 9 through 11 would be one section, and chapters 12 on would be another section. But here Paul is talking about himself and the extreme grief he has over Judaism's widespread rejection of Jesus as the messiah and Paul was so concerned that he was willing to let whatever curse had fallen on Israel would fall on himself instead.

***I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, <sup>2</sup> that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. <sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were accursed (anathema) from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; <sup>5</sup> of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen. Romans 9:1-5***

This is amazing, he even goes so far as to tell them he was not lying, but we know that only Jesus was able to carry the curse for others.

***Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), <sup>14</sup> that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Galatians 3:13-14***

So the question is, what is the source of loving and caring about people so much that you are willing to take the curse for others?

### **1. Paul's source.**

Why was Paul able to love so deeply those who had persecuted him so much? These were the same people that imprisoned him and tried to kill him? This is far beyond tribal loyalty and it comes from his faith, he understood;

- **God's love for them:** Paul loves because God loves them. When Paul lists the great gifts, God has given Israel, His message was He loves them, and God blessed them throughout their history. Here's the list.

Adoption as sons and daughters

Glory

Covenants

Law

The tabernacle

Promises found in the book of Deuteronomy

Fathers

The Messiah

- **God's plan for them:**

Their calling as Abraham's children is to be a source of spiritual blessing to all the people on the earth, the messiah was going to come from and through the people of Israel, God had a plan for them, not only was the Messiah but all the early church leaders and fathers of the faith.

Think about this; the Israelites knew the word, they knew the law and they were going to get a chance to teach the gentiles how awesome and great God was and is. And they blew it!!

They were so selfish, so proud, so narcissistic that they blew the chance to be right in the middle of God's redemptive plan for mankind.

Have you ever done the very same thing? God gives you a chance to impact people for Jesus and you pout and get mad because it didn't come about the way you thought it should?

The Jews knew God's plan for mankind and they understood basic holiness and could have been such a tool for the gentiles who knew nothing except to be born again...

- *The horror they had chosen by rejecting Christ.*

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

So, Paul says in verse 3 that he was praying that he would be “anathema” which means, cursed or devoted to destruction, and this is from the guy who saw heaven! He is still willing to take their place to keep them from what lay ahead...

## **2. Our source.**

Our source is actually the same as Paul’s, we have what is called unreasonable love, and to have unreasonable love we must understand:

- *God’s love for them.*

We need to settle in our hearts that God loves the worst sinner you can think of, it is His desire that NONE would perish but that ALL would have eternal life.

***He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Romans 8:32***

***For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”<sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.<sup>13</sup> For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” Romans 10:11-13***

- *God’s plan for them.*

God wants all to believe and for those who do choose to believe, from the foundations of time, God laid out the perfect plan for their life.

***And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Romans 8:28-30***

We talked about this last week, God doesn't like some more than others, but He knows before who is and who isn't going to accept Him...

- *The destiny some have chosen by rejecting Christ.*

When you think about what awaits those that choose to reject Christ, it makes things very sober, in fact if you try to think about it and it doesn't motivate you...

### **3. What now?**

Loving with what I call unreasonable love is not easy, it requires a heart that is intent on allowing God to make us more and more like Jesus, it is not something we will do in the natural, because people are not easy to love!

So, here are three things that will extinguish unreasonable love.

- *Expectations.* If we allow expectations to accumulate, if we feel sorry for ourselves and become victims to people reactions, if we expect to be thanked and loved for every thing we do for others, we will “fall out” of love for others.
- *Nurturing bitterness.* If we become offended, if we keep track of the wrongs people have done, if we keep track of times people didn’t thank us or return the love or acts of service...

***Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 1 Corinthians 13:4-5***

- Becoming detached from the vine.

***Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.***

***<sup>5</sup> “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:4-5***

There is nothing good in us, all of our goodness comes from our Father God, we never become loving on our own, but when we draw close to God, we become more like Him, and He puts His heart in mine.

We need to come to the point I quit trusting my own heart to do good and depend on God to supply what I need every day in every situation, knowing this will change the way we pray and the way we live.

When we become detached from the vine, we are reduced to doing things, loving, forgiving, in our own power and effort