

August 8th – What Are You Grieved About?

“I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart.”

(Romans 9:1-2)

Can you remember the last time you were really grieved about something? Let me guess – was it when they announced that your favorite ice cream had been discontinued? Maybe it was the last time you went to the store and there were no parking spots close to the door? Maybe it was when your favorite team lost their last ball game? I hope none of those things made you “have great sorrow and continual grief,” but you’ve got to admit that we get pretty torn up about lots of trivial things.

When Paul was writing his letter to the Roman Christians, he came to the point where he wanted to provide a fuller explanation of Israel’s place in God’s plan of salvation. He began by explaining his great sorrow over the fact that his Jewish countrymen were still under condemnation because they had not placed their faith in Jesus. Paul even went on to say he would allow himself to be cut off from Christ if it meant that the rest of the nation of Israel would be saved.

Think about that – Paul actually said he would be willing to go to hell if it meant his countrymen would be saved. Of course he knew he couldn’t do that, and that’s why he was so grieved – he was broken-hearted because he knew many of them would die lost apart from Christ. We need to examine ourselves – do we get more grieved by ice cream and parking spots than we do lost people dying and going to hell? Let’s be grieved for those who need Jesus and do all we can to lead them to Christ.