

Romans 9:1-5

*I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—<sup>2</sup> that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. <sup>5</sup> To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.*

Paul the Apostle opens up

- Just because you're burdened doesn't mean you're in a bad place – 9:1-2 *I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—<sup>2</sup> that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.*
- 🙄🙄🙄 – 9:3 *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.*
  - Any discussion about God's sovereignty and our responsibility should be saturated by the tone of Romans 9:3.
  - What really bothers me? Is what bothers me what should bother me?
- Spiritual heritage does not guarantee salvation – 9:4-5 *They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. <sup>5</sup> To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.*

Action points on telling others about Jesus

1. Don't wait for greater love and passion: Just start obeying Jesus' command to share the Gospel and the feelings will follow.
2. Look for challenges, not excuses.
3. Start somewhere.

**“If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies; and if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay, and not madly to destroy themselves. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for.”**

**– Charles Spurgeon**