



ROMANS 9:1-3

Paul's Great Sorrow and Grief for Israel

**IMPORTANT
INTERSECTION
AHEAD**

SOUTH
→





The Church has NOT altered or undone
God's plan for Israel.



“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!” - Romans 11:33



Who are Paul's "brethren," his "kinsmen according to the flesh?"



...my brethren...

- Brethren = ἀδελφός
- Paul has two different sets of “brethren” → Israel and the Church



...kinsmen according to the flesh...

- In most places this expression simply speaks of the earthly physical aspect of man.
- Paul is not identifying himself with the Jews in any way other than his own physical ethnicity.



I am telling the truth in Christ...

- “TRUTH I am speaking in Christ.”
- The focus here is on the fact that this is the TRUTH!
- What does it mean to “speak in Christ”?
- Isaiah 53:9 ...nor was there any deceit in His mouth.



...I am not lying,...

- Is Paul being redundant?
- Paul is expressing the fact that he is in no way being deceptive.
- Verse 1 makes it impossible to take verse 3 as anything but the explicit truth.



...my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit...

- “My conscience bearing joint-testimony with me in the Holy Spirit” -- Wuest
- If Paul were lying, his conscience would be bothering him. But he’s not, and so he has a clear conscience before the Lord.



Why is Paul so adamant that he is “telling the truth”?

1. Paul’s claim is so unthinkable that we wouldn’t believe him otherwise!
2. It’s an impossible desire to have unless it is sourced entirely in the person and nature of Jesus Christ.

Paul’s grief and sorrow are sourced in the character of Christ.



2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart.

3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,



...great sorrow and unceasing grief...

- bitter grief and incessant anguish -AMP
- great heaviness and continual sorrow -KJV
- great grief and uninterrupted pain -Darby
- a consuming grief, a great one, and intense anguish without a let-up -Wuest



...great sorrow and unceasing grief...

“I exist in a continual state of having...
great sorrow and unceasing grief.”



...in my heart.

- What is the role of our feelings?
- DO **NOT** FOLLOW YOUR FEELINGS!



...in my heart...

Paul is responding very emotionally to Israel's rejection of Christ.

But he is not allowing his emotions to lead him!

His emotions are a deeply felt response to the truth!



Jesus expressed His own deep sorrow over Israel.

***When He approached Jerusalem,
He saw the city and wept over it,***

-Luke 19:41



Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. -Matthew 23:37

- God LOVES the lost sinner!



VERSE 3

*For I could wish that I myself were accursed,
separated from Christ for the sake of my
brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,*

-Romans 9:3



For I could wish...

- εὐχομαι = pray
- This is a certain fact, ongoing in past time
- “For I have prayed continuously in time past...”



...that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ...

- Paul just finished saying that it is IMPOSSIBLE for us to be separated from Christ.



...that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ...

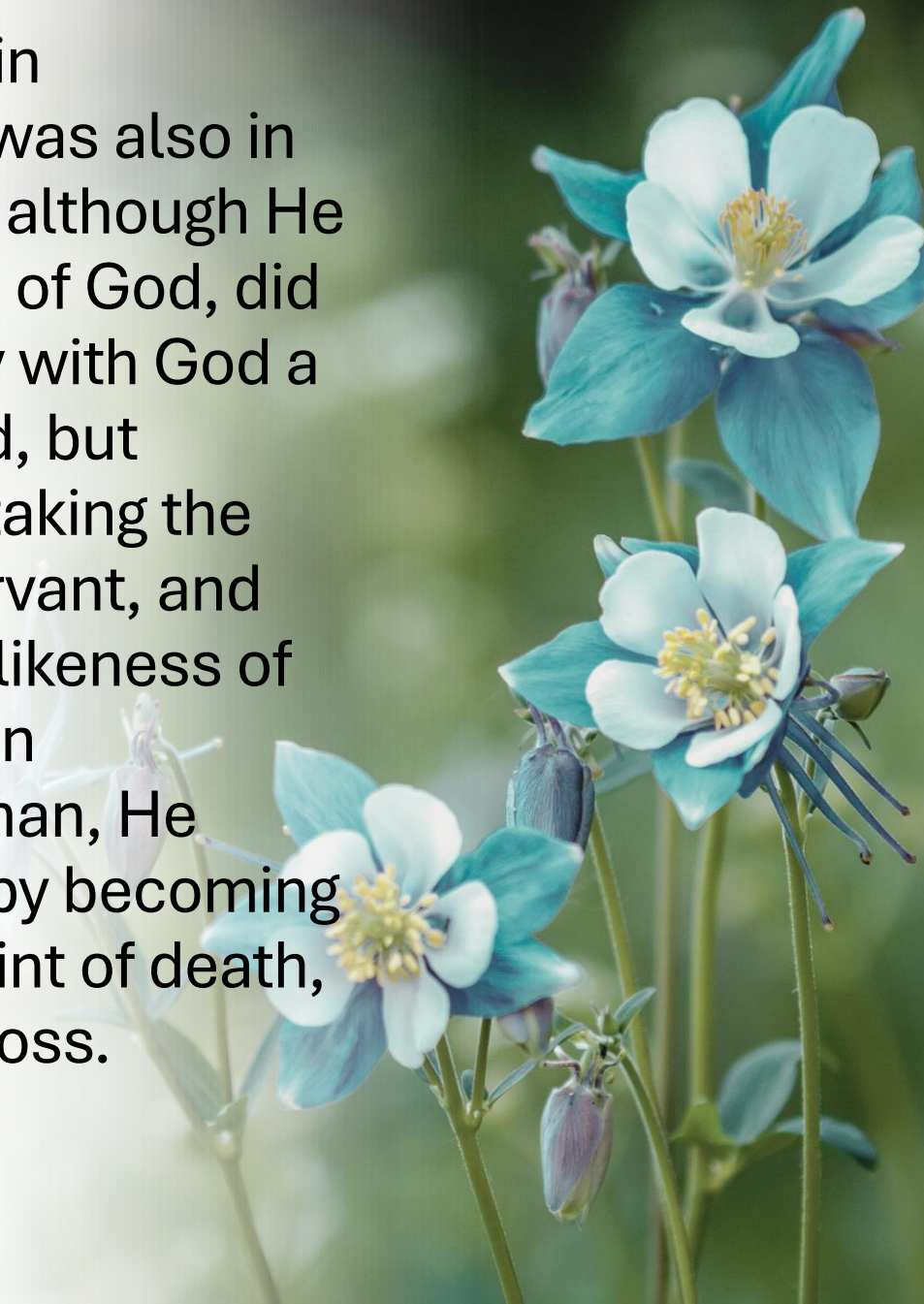
- Accursed = ἀνάθεμα
- Why would Paul pray such a thing?!
- ***“For the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh.”***



Was Paul's prayer misguided?

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

-Philippians 2:5-8





Do I have this same heart burden for the lost?



If this love for the lost is sourced in the character of Christ Himself, then we have to stop looking for it in ourselves.



If I have anything of a genuine love for the lost,
it is coming from Christ, not me!



As we focus our eyes on Christ, and as we are conformed to His likeness, His love will compel us!