

No News is Bad News

Romans 9: 1 – 3

17 January 2021

Series: The Best News

Introduction

There is a difference between what you say you believe and believing what you say you believe.

- Question: *Do you believe what you say you believe?*
 - If most Christians say they believe this, then why have some 90-95% of them never shared the gospel?
- Answer: *Motivation*
 - The best evangelism tool in the world is useless unless you are motivated to use it.

Romans 9: 1 - 3

¹ I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, 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,

Am I conscientiously aware of people who need the gospel? (v. 1)

- Paul introduces this section by saying that he is telling the truth and not lying.
 - He is about to share how desperate he is that his Jewish brothers and sisters come to faith in Jesus.
 - His conscience confirms this by the Holy Spirit.
- Personal Question: If I really said that I have a burning passion for people without Jesus, to come to know Jesus, would I be telling the truth? Would I have a clear conscience?
- Our hearts should break for whatever breaks the heart of God, and nothing breaks the heart of God more than people who don't know Jesus.

Do I continuously care about people who need the gospel? (v. 2)

- It's one thing to be aware, but it's another thing to actually care.
 - Paul says "great" sorrow and "unceasing" anguish.
 - Most of us are hot or cold when it comes to evangelism.
- We can be passionate about all sorts of spiritual activity (Bible studies, church events) and miss the necessity of investment in the work of evangelism.
- The gospel and the call to evangelism should be like a classic song that you can't get out of your head.

Will I passionately share with people who need the gospel? (v. 3)

- You can listen to sermons all day and leave without motivation to share the gospel.
 - It's difficult to imagine how we can say that the grace and mercy of God has transformed our lives, yet refuse to share that good news with others.
- Verse 3 is an astounding claim. Paul says that he would be willing to be cut off from Jesus if it meant that others would know Christ.
 - Paul's point here is that he was so motivated that people came to faith he'd be willing to do anything. He was motivated!
- Paul understood the gospel. This is exactly what Jesus did. He took your hell so you could go to heaven. He took your condemnation so you could get His salvation.

Conclusion

- People who are in our lives notice whether or not we really care about Jesus (and about them). They see in our lives whether or not we actually believe Jesus matters and whether we care about the eternal fate of those who are far from God.
- Even if they disagree with what you say, most people appreciate the integrity of your life. If you really believe people are destined for eternal separation from God, then the least we could do is to tell them about Jesus.
- How could we not care more for others knowing how much Jesus cares for us?