



## BURDENED! Heartbroken for the Hell-bent

Lesson 6

*Romans 9:1-3 is as relevant as a two-and-a-half-hour flight  
from Boston to Chicago!*

### Are You Burdened for the Eternal Destiny of the People Around You?

*We need to be **HEARTBROKEN** for the hell-bent!*

9:1-3 ~ Paul's **PERSONAL PAIN** over the condemnation of his people, Israel.  
10:1 ~ Paul's **PASSIONATE PRAYER** for the salvation of his people, Israel  
11:1 ~ Paul's **POSITIVE PROOF** of God's future restoration of His people, Israel

### Those Burdened for the Eternal Destiny of Others

#### 1. **BELIEVE** the *Reality* of the Burden. *Romans 9:3*

*"...accursed and cut off from Christ...[are] my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh."*

- The reality is that everyone who is **WITHOUT** Christ is under the curse of God's eternal wrath.  
*Galatians 1:8-9; 1Corinthians 16:22; Romans 1:18; 2:5, 8; 3:5*
- We will never be burdened for the lost until we **TRULY BELIEVE** they are lost without Christ.

#### 2. **SPEAK** with the *Sincerity* of the Burden. *Romans 9:1*

*"I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—"*

- A sincere burden is **SHARED** with others.
- A sincere burden is shared like **CHRIST** would share—*He too is heartbroken for the hell bent!*
  - 1) Paul's burden for the Jewish people in their unbelief was a **Christ-like** burden. *Matthew 23:37; Luke 23:34*
  - 2) Paul's burden for the Jewish people in their unbelief is a **Christian** burden.
- A sincere burden is shared with a **CLEAR** conscience that is confirmed by the Holy Spirit.

#### 3. **BLEED** with the *Intensity* of the Burden. *Romans 9:2*

*"that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 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."*



- We should bleed with **great sorrow** and **unceasing anguish** in our hearts.
- We should be so heartbroken for those who are hell-bent that we would be willing to **SACRIFICE** everything to see them come to Christ.

### Wrong Ways to Deal with the Tension of Our Intense Burden for the Lost

- 1) **QUESTION** God's love or justice regarding His righteous judgment of their sin and unbelief.
- 2) **CHANGE** God's character or His Word so it lines up with what "my God" would be like or would do.
- 3) **GRUDGINGLY/RELUCTANTLY** accept who God is and what His Word says about the lost, but wish there was no hell and focus on how if you were God you would do it differently

### What Do All of These Ways of Dealing with the Tension Have in Common?

*They all three look at the tension from a **HUMAN** perspective that implies we are some how we know better than God does how to deal with the eternal destiny of people.*

### What Is the Right Way to Deal with the Tension of Our Intense Burden for the Lost?

*Look to the **CROSS** of Christ that neither lessens the sinfulness of people nor the holiness of God.*

*Paul wishes that he could (but knows that can't) sacrifice himself as a substitute to save his loved ones!  
In other words, he deals with the tension according to the **GOSPEL** of Christ!*

### Is Our Love for God and Others So Great that...

*We are willing to stay out of heaven for the saved and go to hell for the unsaved?*

## 4. **ACT** on the *Responsibility* of the Burden. Romans 9:1-3; 10:1; 11:1-2

*"I am speaking the truth in Christ... for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh ..."*

*"Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved."*

*"I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew."*

### Our Burden Should Result in ACTION...

- **SHARING** it with others with sincerity and intensity.
- **PRAYING** sincerely and intensely for God to save the lost.
- **WITNESSING** to the lost with sincerity and intensity about the reality of eternal judgment and salvation in Christ.
- **GROWING** in sincerity and intensity in light of the reality of eternal judgment and eternal salvation.

Saul the Hater of Christians	After the sovereign Savior saved Saul on the Damascus Road...	Paul the Lover of the Lost
Cursed by God and Cut Off from Christ Killing Christians A Hard Heart toward the Gospel	Paul's burden grew over a 20-year period as it was Word-fed, Spirit-led, and gospel-focused!	Saved by God in Christ Willing to die for the Unserved A Broken Heart for the Hell-bent

*How has your burden for the lost grown since you were saved?*

*How has it grown over the past year?*

*How have you been feeding your burden for the lost with the Bible?*

*Is your burden growing as you follow the leading of the Spirit in your witnessing?*