

“From Glory To Grief”
Romans 9:1-5

Introduction:

1. Have You Ever Had:
 - One Of Those “Mountain Top” Experiences:
 - In Your Life?
 - When It Seemed As If:
 - You Were At The Peak:
 - Of Satisfaction And Joy?
 - I Remember - Having That Kind Of Feeling:
 - When Our Children Were Born:
 - And I Got To Hold Them In My Arms:
 - For The Very First Time!
 - But - Like Most Of Those:
 - “Mountain Top” Experiences:
 - It Didn’t Last Very Long!
 - Because Then - The Valley Came:
 - When I Started To Think About And Feel:
 - The Heavy Responsibility That Comes Along:
 - With Having Those Bundles Of Joy!
2. Well - As We’ve Been Making Our Way:
 - Through Paul’s Letter To The Romans:
 - On Sunday Mornings:
 - We Came To One Of Those Spiritual:
 - Mountain Tops - At The End Of Chapter 8
 - Where The Apostle Paul:
 - Invites Us To Rejoice In The Fact That - As Believers In Christ:
 - There Is - 8:38-39 - Nothing:
 - “Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, / Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!”
 - Now - That’s A Mountain Top Feeling!
 - Of God’s Love, God’s Joy, God’s Peace, And God’s Hope!
 - It’s A Place Of Feeling:
 - That You Never Want To Leave!
3. But - From The Heights Of Glory:
 - There In Chapter 8 - We Now Move On:
 - To Chapter 9 - Where It Seems Like:
 - Paul Is Back In A Valley:
 - A Valley Of Deep Grief!
 - Even As He Says In:
 - 9:2 - “I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart!”
 - And The Question Comes To Mind:
 - What Would Cause This Abrupt Change:
 - In The Heart Of Paul?
 - From Joy To Sorrow:
 - And From Glory To Grief?
4. Well - As We Will See From:
 - 9:1-5 This Morning:
 - It Was Because There Were So Many:
 - Of His Own Country:
 - Who Did Not Know The Love Of God:
 - The Way He Did:
 - In Jesus Christ!
 - Instead - So Many Of His Brethren:
 - Of His Own Nationality:
 - Continued To Reject The Love Of God:

- Which Was So Profoundly Demonstrated:
 - In The Coming Of Jesus Christ, Their Messiah!
- So - Even As The Apostle Paul:
 - Celebrated:
 - The Grace Of God That:
 - Brought *Him* To Christ!
 - At The Same Time - He:
 - Lamented:
 - That The Vast Majority Of:
 - His Own People:
 - Continued To Resist The Blessings Of The Gospel!
- And So - He Writes:
 - 9:1-5 - "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, / 2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. / 3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: / 4 Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; / 5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen!"

5. What We Find In These Verses Is That:

- The Apostle Paul:
 - Experienced Some Of The Greatest Sorrow In His Heart:
 - Because Those He Loved:
 - Failed To Respond To:
 - The Love Of God!
 - And - Truly:
 - This Ought To Cause In Us - The Same Kind Of:
 - Sorrow - Even As We Rejoice:
 - In What God Has Done For Us!
 - Because - As We See From:
 - 9:1-3 - Unbelievers Fail To Respond To:

1. ***The Great Pangs Of God's Love!***

- Sometimes We Forget That:
 - In Love - There Can Also Be:
 - Pain - And This Is What Paul Experienced:
 - In His Relationship With His Own People:
 - The Jews!
 - And - What He Is About To Say:
 - About His Sorrow:
 - Is So Shocking That:
 - He Needs To - In 9:1:
 - Tell Us Of:
 - The Reality Of His Pain!
 - 9:1 - "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost!"
 - Paul Wanted Us To Know That:
 - He Was Being Completely Transparent!
 - He Was Baring His Heart And Soul To Us All:
 - And Telling Us The Truth! And:
 - His Heart-Felt Pain For His People:
 - Was Very Sincere!
 - In Two Different Ways:
 - He Testifies To The Truth:
 - Of His Feelings!
 - "I Say The Truth" & "I Lie Not!"
 - But - Even More:
 - His Heart-Felt Pain:
 - Was Spiritual At Its Core!
 - He Was Speaking The Truth:

- "In Christ!"
- And - His "Conscience Also [Was] Bearing [Him] Witness":
 - "In The Holy Ghost!"
- It Was His Relationship With Jesus Christ:
 - That Caused Him:
 - To Feel The Same Pangs:
 - As Jesus Did:
 - When He Lamented Over The Plight Of His People!
 - Remember In The Gospels - When Jesus Cried:
 - "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matthew 23:37; Luke 13:34)
- The Pain & Pangs Of Paul:
 - Was Like Christ's - And:
 - It Was Real And Intense - And So:
 - In 9:2 - He Goes On To Give Us:
- The Report Of His Pain!
 - 9:2 - "That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart!"
 - Here Paul Heaps Words Together:
 - To Try To Describe:
 - The Depth Of Sorrow He Has:
 - For His People!
 - He Is Full Of "Heaviness":
 - And Grief! And It Is:
 - An Internal Grief!
 - This Word Describes A Grief:
 - That Is So Deep That:
 - You Might Feel As If You Are Going To Be "Swallowed Up With Overmuch Sorrow!" (2 Cor. 2:7)
 - But It Was Also:
 - An Intense Grief!
 - It Is A "Great Heaviness" That Paul Bears!
 - It Is Strong And Powerful:
 - And A Deep, Deep Grief!
 - **IE:** The Kind Of Grief Of Losing A Loved One!
 - It Was Also:
 - An Incessant Grief!
 - "Continual" - Paul Writes!
 - It Stayed In His Heart!
 - So - Along With His Celebration Of Christ, There Was Still Lamentation In His Soul!
 - And It Was Also:
 - An Inconsolable Grief!
 - It Was A "Sorrow" That Felt Like:
 - The Sun Had Set - Never To Rise Again:
 - On The Hearts Of His People!
 - This Great Grief & Pain:
 - Was A Reflection:
 - Of Paul's Great Love For His People!
 - But - What Would Cause Him To Feel This Way?
 - Even After All He Said In Chapter 8?
 - In 9:3 - We See:
- The Reason For His Pain!
 - 9:3 - "For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh!"
 - Oh, How Paul Cared For His People!
 - Here - He Gives One Of The Most Shocking Statements In All Of Scripture!

- “For I Could Wish That Myself Were Accursed From Christ For My Brethren!”
- Paul’s Heart Yearned For His People:
 - To The Point That:
 - If It Were Possible & If It Were Permitted:
 - He Would Take The Eternal Punishment Of His People:
 - Upon Himself - If Only They Might Believe In & Receive Christ!
- This Was The Same Kind Of Heart:
 - That Old Moses Had:
 - In Exodus 30:31-33 - When He Prayed To The Lord - “Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. / Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin — ; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written!”
 - But - How Did The Lord Respond?
 - “And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book!”
- This Was The Same Kind Of Heart:
 - That King David Had:
 - In 2 Samuel 18:33 - For His Son - “And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!”
- But - David & Moses & Paul Knew:
 - That They Could Not:
 - Be The Substitute That Their People Needed!
 - But They Had Such A Burden For The Souls Of Their People - That They Were Willing To Be!
- But - Jesus Christ *Did* Come:
 - To Be Their Substitute:
 - And To Bear The Curse:
 - That They & We Were Under!
 - Isaiah 53:4-5 - “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. / But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed!”
 - If Only Those We Love:
 - Would Know The Love Of God:
 - As We Do!
- And That Was One Of The Main Reasons:
 - For The Great Pain & Grief:
 - In Paul’s Heart!
 - He Loved:
 - His “Brethren!”
 - He Was Moved For:
 - His “Kinsmen According To The Flesh!”
 - And Yet - How Did They Respond:
 - To The Pangs Of His Love & Of Christ’s Love?
 - They Continued To Resist & Reject:
 - And That Broke Paul’s Heart!
 - But - What About You & Me?
 - Do We Have This Kind Of Love:
 - For The Lost In Our Lives?
 - What Pain & Pangs:
 - Do We Have:
 - For Their Salvation?
 - Or - If You Are Not A Christian:
 - Think About The Great Pain & Pangs:
 - Of Those Who Love You:
 - And Care For Your Soul!
 - Think About:

- The Heart Of:
 - Your Godly Parents, Pastor, And Friends!
- But - Mostly - How Will You Respond To:
 - The Heart Of Jesus Christ:
 - Who Died For You!
 - What Paul & Moses & David:
 - Wished They Could Do:
 - Jesus Did!
- Do Not Neglect:
 - The Pangs Of God's Love:
 - For You!
 - But - Paul Was Also Concerned Because His People Failed To Respond To:

2. ***The Great Privileges Of God's Love!***

- Which We Find Listed For Us:
 - In 9:4-5 - "Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; / Whose are the fathers!"
 - Paul Uses The Term "Israelites" On Purpose:
 - Because It Would Have Reminded His People:
 - Of Their Special Connection:
 - With God!
 - After All - It Was God Himself:
 - Who Gave Jacob This Name:
 - "Prince Of God!"
 - And So - All Of His Descendants Experienced:
 - The Privilege Of:
 - God's Choice!
 - They Were "Adopted" By God:
 - As His Chosen People!
 - Deuteronomy 7:7-8 - "The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye [were] the fewest of all people; / But because the LORD loved you!"
 - But - What Had They Done:
 - With Their Privilege! Also:
 - The Privilege Of:
 - God's Communion!
 - "And The Glory!" (9:4)
 - The Glory Of God Was The Physical Manifestation Of God:
 - And His Presence!
 - And The Glory Of God:
 - Was Manifested To Israel:
 - All Throughout Their History!
 - In The Wilderness:
 - Through The Cloud By Day & The Pillar Of Fire By Night!
 - In The Mountain!
 - In The Tabernacle & Temple:
 - Where God's Glory Filled The House!
 - This Showed Them That God Was With Them!
 - But - What Did They Do:
 - With That Privilege? Also:
 - The Privilege Of:
 - God's Compact!
 - "And The Covenants!" (9:4)
 - Which Were Special Promises Made:
 - To Their Fathers:
 - Abraham & Isaac & Jacob & Then Moses & David & Even Christ!
 - All Of These Compacts:
 - Were Compacts Of Blessing:
 - As We're Told In Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,

- Of Course - He Could Be Referring To:
 - Abraham, Isaac, And Jacob:
 - The Patriarchs!
- But - Did Not God Also Provide:
 - Other Spiritual Fathers To His People?
 - Time After Time?
- But - With All Of These Privileges:
 - Added To The One Paul Mentioned Back In:
 - 3:2 - “Unto them were committed the oracles of God!”
 - How Did They Respond?
 - Well - Sadly - In Many Ways:
 - The Same Way We Respond:
 - To The Spiritual Privileges We Have Been Given By The Lord!
 - Like The Privileges & Blessings:
 - Of Our Homes & Churches!
 - Of God’s Word & The Gospel!
 - We Must Not Neglect:
 - The Privileges Of God’s Love:
 - For Us!
 - But Then - Paul Adds:
 - One More Privilege:
 - That Was Given To His People By God!
 - And That Is:

3. ***The Great Person Of God’s Love!***

- 9:5 - “And of whom as concerning the flesh Christ [came], who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen!”
 - It Was Through Israel:
 - That Jesus Came!
 - And This Was The Greatest Privilege Of All! And:
 - He Came In Great Humility!
 - It Was Through Israel:
 - That Jesus Christ Came:
 - “As Concerning / According To The Flesh!”
 - Reminds Us Of:
 - The Great Humility & Humiliation:
 - That Jesus Took Upon Himself:
 - To Save His People From Their Sins! (Matthew 1:21)
 - As We Are Told:
 - In Philippians 2:7-8 - It Was Jesus:
 - Who “Made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: / And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross!”
 - And - He Did This:
 - For Them & For Us!
 - But - Also - Paul Adds:
 - He Came In Great Honor!
 - Because Jesus Did Not Just Come:
 - As A Mere Man - He Came:
 - As The One - 9:5 - “Who Is Over All, God – Blessed Forever! Amen!”
 - Here - Paul Points To:
 - Not Just The Human Nature Of Christ:
 - But Also - The Divine Nature Of Christ!
 - He Is “God” Who Is “Over All!”
 - This Means:
 - That One Of The Greatest Promises:
 - Given To Israel:
 - Was Also Fulfilled!
 - The Promise Of:

- Isaiah 7:14 - "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel!"

- Which - As Matthew Later Tells Us - "Being Interpreted Is, God With Us!"
(Matthew 1:23)

- God Himself Came Into This World:

- To Be With His People - And:

- To Save His People - And The World:

- From Their Sins!

- "Whosoever Believeth In Him!" (John 3:16)

- And That Was & Still Is:

- The Greatest Privilege Of All!

- But - How Did They Respond?

- I Think Our Own Hearts Should Break:

- As We Hear The Words Of John:

- In John 1:10-11 - "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. / He came unto his own, and his own received him not!"

Conclusion:

1. And - The Response Of His Own People:

- To Their Greatest Privilege & Gift:

- Broke The Apostle Paul's Heart!

2. But What About Us Today?

- What About You?

- How Have You Responded:

- To The Great Pangs & Privileges & Person:

- Of God's Love:

- Which He Has Given You?

- Do Ignore:

- The Loving Pleas:

- Of Those God Has Put In Your Life:

- To Trust In & Live For:

- The Lord Jesus Christ?

- Have You Forgotten:

- The Great Privileges & Gifts:

- That God Has Given You:

- So That You Can Give All You Have For Him?

- Or - Do You Keep Resisting:

- The Loving Call Of Jesus:

- Matthew 11:28 - "Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest!"

3. Do Not Neglect:

- All That God Has Done For You:

- To Call You To Himself!

- Do Not "Neglect So Great Salvation!" (Hebrews 2;3)

Grace Baptist Church

Stephen Elmer, Pastor

4245 North 200 West

Greenfield, Indiana 46140

317-326-2362

www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace

www.growatgrace.org

pastor-elmer@hotmail.com