

## Connection to Romans 9

Paul expressed his deep concern over Israel's lack of responsiveness to the gospel. Salvation having always been granted through faith magnifies Paul's concern.

## Introduction/Opening

LifeWay research conducted an online survey of 2,500 Protestant churchgoers in 2019 and found more than half of Protestant church attendees admitted to not engaging in evangelism in the past half year. (<https://lifewayresearch.com/2019/04/23/evangelism-more-prayed-for-than-practiced-by-churchgoers/>)

In another LifeWay study in 2016 they discovered that an unchurched person is open to talking about faith. (<https://lifewayresearch.com/2016/06/28/unchurched-will-talk-about-faith-not-interested-in-going-to-church/>)

What is it that keeps us from sharing the gospel with people? Maybe it's fear? Fear of rejection, fear of not knowing enough, fear of offending, or maybe the fear of ridicule or persecution? Johnny Hunt suggests that "the evangelism decline among Southern Baptist is not about a lack of resources but a lack of passion." We can learn a great deal about passion for the gospel and passion for those without Christ from the Apostle Paul.

## Outline

1. The Reason For Paul's Passion  
Many of Paul's people (Jews) had not received Jesus Christ, even though they had great privileges such as the covenants, law, temple service, and the promises. From His own people Jesus Christ came into the world, yet many were rejecting Him.  
Many are not receiving Christ now, even though access to the gospel is abundant.
2. The Intensity of Paul's Passion  
When Paul thought of Israel and their separation from God, he felt an overwhelming grief. Paul had a deep love for his people group, seen in his willingness to take their punishment if that would bring them to Christ. (*It's important to note: even if this was possible, this would not save them.*)  
What are we willing to do to reach people with the gospel?
3. The Source of Paul's Passion

A passion as intense as Paul's is not humanly possible. Our conscience can only be trusted when controlled by the Holy Spirit, and one can only have the Holy Spirit when one is in Christ. This type of sacrificial love is exactly what Jesus displayed when He gave His life as a ransom for many. This type of love is typical of a believer who is in Christ, being filled with the Holy Spirit. It is Christ in us loving others through us.

Am I living life being filled by the Spirit?

## **Conclusion**

Often God through His Holy Spirit will speak to us through His Word. Perhaps Paul was spending some time in the Scriptures, possibly Exodus 32, and reflecting upon the passion and compassion Moses had for his people. The Scripture reveals to us that Moses was willing to have his name erased from the book of life if God would not forgive His people. May we develop a passion for all people who need to hear the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

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