

Valentine's Love or Real Love

Rom 9:1-3

Intro: Was anyone here saved listening to a radio broadcast? Raise your hand. How many were saved listening to a TV preacher? How many prayed to receive the Lord Jesus as a direct result of a message? How many were saved when you saw "Jesus Saves" on a big rock, a sign, or a bumper sticker or someone hold up a John 3:16 sign at a football game?

How many of you were saved, when someone; maybe a preacher, or a parent or a friend or a neighbor or even a stranger took the time to tell you about your need for a savior and then took the time to led you to Christ?

Even now as I ask that question their face or name, maybe the situation, comes to your mind? If this is how you came to know Christ as your savior raise your hand.

Now I don't want you to raise your hands or audibly answer to the next series of questions, but...

How many souls have you brought to Christ?

How many have led a person to Christ in the past 6 months... the past year... the last five years... ever?

It is a sad statistic that less than ten percent of all Baptists will share their faith with someone this year. If we are going to be a soul winning church, one of the very first things we must do is to love others enough to care about those without Jesus Christ, those who are lost. We need to develop a heart for the lost like Paul's heart.

That is what our text is about today, developing a heart for the lost.

[Stand\read Rom 9:1-3\prayer\dismiss Jr. church]

k This past Thursday was Valentine's Day so I want to ask, how many of you got your wife or husband something? Did you take the time to go find a gift? Did you spend the money necessary to get that gift?

Why?

My guess is that you believed that going and finding that gift, spending the money to buy the gift and then giving it to your wife or husband expressed your love for them. I would also guess that if you didn't do the above you heard about it and may still be hearing about yet today.

Valentine's Day is celebrated as a day to show love. Husbands show their love for their wives, wives show love for their husbands and often those who are dating take Valentine's Day as the time that they bow to their knee and ask that special someone to marry them.

Love is an important part of living. Love is what makes a marriage work, a family stay together and can cause people to do all kind of strange things. Think about it, Romeo killed himself when he thought his love Juliet was dead; and when she woke up and saw her love Romeo was dead she took a knife and killed herself.

The problem is that the kind of love that gave birth to the Valentine's Day caused Romeo and Juliet to kill themselves is a selfish kind of love. This kind of love does all those things with the expectation of getting the same kind of love back.

The kind of love this world needs, however, is that kind of love God showed toward mankind when He sent His **only begotten Son** to this world to pay for the sins of the world. Romans tells that God, **commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.** With no promise or expectation of receiving back the love He showed toward us He gave us the gift of salvation expecting nothing in return.

Here is the problem, Jesus teaches us that we are to **Love One Another**. In fact 3 times in John alone He tells us to **Love One Another**. Paul teaches that to love one another is the fulfillment of the law. The church that loves others is a church that is a soul winning church.

The ultimate expression of this love is when we take the time to share Christ with those around us. Unfortunately too many Christians are quick to show **Valentine's Love** but too slow to show **Real Love**. The result is a world where souls are dying on going to hell at an alarming rate. Our world has become much like the world of D.L. Moody's day.

In 1884 D. L. Moody was preparing for an evangelistic campaign in Sheffield, England. Upon arriving at the city he told by one of his escorts that there are more than 150,000 who never attend service and most of them wouldn't even have a church to attend if they so desired at least, upon hearing this startling fact he makes this statement:

"It seems to me if there be upon God's earth one blacker sight than these thousands of Christ-less and graceless souls, it is the thousands of dead and slumbering Christians living in their very midst, rubbing shoulders with them every day upon the streets, and never so much as lifting up a little finger to warn them of death and eternity and judgment to come. Talk of being sickened at the sight of the world's degradation, ah! Let those of us who are Christians hide our faces because of our own, and pray God to deliver us from the guilt of the world's blood."

Moody then makes it very clear just how he believes God sees this lack of love for souls, *"I believe that if there is one thing which pierces the Master's heart with unutterable grief, it is not the world's iniquity, but the Church's indifference."*

Paul, in our text for today shares his heart for the lost and in so doing tells us what it means to have **Real Love** rather than **Valentine's Love**.

You have real love when You Have...

I. A Broken Heart for the Lost Vv. 2

- A.** The depth of Paul's concern is expressed in his words "**great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart**" or "**bitter grief and continual anguish**" for Israel.
- B.** The source of this agony was
 - 1. An awareness of the lostness of his kinsman**
 - a)** Romans 10:2 **"For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge"** –
 - b)** Paul realized that though they were religious they were still lost!
 - 1)** Church need to realize that the average person you work with or live near or run into during your normal day are likely just religious enough to keep them out of heaven
 - c)** The Jew believed because he was a Jew that he automatically had an in with God but Paul concluded in Romans 3:9-10, 22b-23 **"What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; ¹⁰As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:**

- ...for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."*
- d) There is no man, woman or child that does not fit this description.
2. **An awareness of the exclusivity of Jesus Christ**
- a) It may not be politically correct to be exclusive but Jesus had no problem being politically incorrect, in John 14:6 he made it very clear on what God sees as the only way to heaven, He said, **"...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."**
- b) Paul made it clear that no one is exempt from or has a get out of hell free card when he said **"...the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD."** (Romans 6:23)
- c) There are only three kinds of people in this world:
- 1) **There are those who know Christ**, having established a relationship Him as Savior
 - 2) **There are others who are blindly seeking but have not found Him**
 - 3) **The rest who go through life without seeking Him oblivious to their ultimate destiny**
 - a) I Timothy 2:5 **"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"**
 - b) Bailey Smith said at the 1982 SBC Convention – **"You cannot turn your back on Jesus and your face toward God, because they stand together!"**
- d) **We need to be aware of the exclusivity of Christ**
3. **An awareness of the destiny of the lost**

- a) John 3:36 **"He that believes on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believes not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him."**
- b) Revelation 20:15 **"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."**
- c) The Scripture makes it clear that man apart from Christ is condemned eternally.
- d) A. A. Hodge in his theology says there is no word more emphatic for eternal than the one used of hell in the New Testament.
- e) Leon Morris says the word was applied to an age that was never to end.
- f) Are we aware of the lostness of those around us?
4. It is easy for us to think of the heathen in dark and remote corners of the world or in undeveloped third world nations as being lost. But how often are we aware of the lost condition of neighbors, fellow workers, relatives - aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers, sisters, parents, children, spouses? Are we aware of what they really believe? Are we aware of where they will spend eternity?
5. Video about how people view Christ
- You have real love when You Have...**
- II. **A Burdened Heart to win the Lost V. 3**
- A. In this verse Paul captures the heart and soul of **Real Love**
1. Scripture teaches Christians that there are three levels of love:
 2. We are called to:
Love God completely

Love self correctly

Love others compassionately

3. When the Christian lives out love in this way then they truly understand **Real Love** and have a burden to see the lost come to Christ.
4. Romans 1:14-16 **"I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."**
5. George Bernard Shaw said, *"The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them."*

B. Real Love will find a way--indifference will find an excuse.

1. An old farmer visited his son, a popular senator in Washington, DC. The father was a zealous Christian. When introduced to the ambassador from Belgium, the father earnestly asked, "Sir, are you a Christian?" The son was greatly embarrassed by the question. Before the ambassador could reply, the son changed the conversation. Shortly thereafter, the father became and died. Hearing of his death, the ambassador sent flowers. A note attached to them brought tears to the eyes of the senator. The note read, *"He was the only man in America who asked me if I was a Christian."*
2. Matthew 4:19 **"And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."**
3. Too many Christians are no longer fishers of men but keepers of the aquarium

C. Are you burdened?

1. Charles Spurgeon said, regarding our burden for the lost:

"Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yourself. Be sure of that.... The saving of souls, if a man has once gained love to perishing sinners and his blessed Master, will be an all-absorbing passion to him. It will so carry him away, that he will almost forget himself in the saving of others....."

If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for."

2. Evangelist Ray Comfort puts it this way:

"I don't know how anyone [could] call himself a Christian and not have a concern for the lost.... Hell should be so real to us that its flames burn away apathy and motivate us to warn the lost. Do we see the unsaved as hell's future fuel? Do we understand humanity is the anvil of the justice of God? Have we ever been horrified or wept because we fear their fate? The depth of our evangelistic zeal will be in direct proportion to the love we have. If you are not concerned about your neighbor's salvation, then I am concerned for yours."

"If you have no concern for the lost. If you have no zeal for sharing your salvation. Then I doubt and am very concerned for yours!"

- D.** If you are born of God's Spirit, you will find that something compels you to run to the lost, to reach out to the unsaved, because God gave you a new heart that delights to do His will!!

You Have Real Love For Your Lord If You Have...

III. A Beholden Heart for Your Own Salvation Jn 14:15 ***"If ye love me, keep my commandments"***

- A.** If we love God, If we truly are saved, If we have any Fear of God in our lives; We Must obey HIM!
- B.** You cannot say you Love the Lord and not be burdened to win the lost
- C.** As I have already said, I don't believe our **command** to ***"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"*** (Mk 16:15) is a commission it is a commandment
- D.** Are you really called to Evangelize?

There is a story of a man walking by a lake. As he passed by the swimming area a woman ran up to him in tears. Sir, Sir, My son is drowning could you please save him. In the background you could here the garbles cries for help as a helpless young lad was sinking into death. The man replied "I am sorry, for I am not a lifeguard, so it is not my job." And walked on without a second thought in his mind about the boy that just drowned in the lake.

- E.** Are you really called to Evangelize?
- 1.** I believe God calls all saved men and women to do Full-Time Evangelizing
 - 2.** Paul exhorts his son in the Lord to evangelize, saying, ***"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, ...: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not***

according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (2 Tim 1:8-9)

- 3.** We who have heard the good news and experienced freedom through Christ are responsible to proclaim it to others still enslaved by sin.
 - 4.** Are we doing all we can to make sure that people get the message?
 - 5.** The truth of the matter is that we need to be doing something
 - a)** Too many Christians are like the lady who once approached D.L. Moody after one of his evangelistic meetings and said she did like his method of evangelism. *"I don't really like mine all that much either. What's yours?"* She replied that she didn't have one. Moody said, *"Then I like mine better than yours."*
 - b)** When you are truly aware of and thankful for what the Lord has done for you, you will be more like D.L. Moody when it comes to sharing the gospel than that lady – but be sure, in God's eyes Christians are either one or the other.
- F.** Listen to just how **Beholden** George Whitefield was for his salvation:
"As soon as I was converted, I wanted to be the means of the conversion of all that I had ever known. There were a number of young men that I had played cards with, sinned with, and transgressed with. The first thing I did was, I went to their houses to see what I could do for their salvation. Nor could I rest until I had the pleasure of seeing many of them brought to the Savior."
- 1.** He was so beholden for his new found life that he wanted to share it with all his friends

2. That's what **Real Love** for your friends will do

- G. Charles Spurgeon makes it even more blunt, *"I am sure of this: It is impossible to know the value of salvation without desiring to see others brought in."*

Conclusion: In Matthew 25:6, 10 we read, **"And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom comes; go ye out to meet him. And they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut."** I believe that we are living on the threshold of that midnight cry. For many, the door will soon be shut. Now is the time - the time for those without Christ to come to Christ! Now is the time - the time for those who know the Savior to proclaim Christ! Now is the time - the time to go to a lost world with the love of Christ! Will you have a **heart like Paul? Broken and burdened for the lost and beholden to your savior?** Do you care? Will you go?

You may be setting there saying *"Pastor, witnessing today isn't like it was 150 years ago. It just isn't as acceptable in our culture today."* To that I will simply quote Charles Spurgeon when he was told that witnessing violated the etiquette of his day [today it's called political correctness]:

"Etiquette nowadays often demands of a Christian that he should not intrude his religion on company. Out on such etiquette! It is the etiquette of hell. True courtesy to my fellow's soul makes me speak to him, if I believe that soul to be in danger of hell's fire."