

Lewis' List

"Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved" (Romans 10:1).

The Apostle Paul desperately wanted to see his family and friends, his fellow Israelites, come to know the Lord Jesus Christ by faith. He prayed for them. He wept for them. He sought every opportunity to witness to them. Paul hated the thought that in their ignorance and unbelief his very own family members would spend eternity in a dreadful place... In his own words, he wrote: *"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"* (Romans 9:2-3). Wow... Paul literally was saying that he himself would be willing to be cut off from His saving relationship with Jesus if that meant that some of his kinfolk could come to know that Jesus was really the long-anticipated Messiah. What a heart for the unbeliever, Paul possessed. What a burden for the great commission. What a motive for missions this was...

As we have studied this portion of Romans over the last couple of weeks, a question has been raised in my heart: Do I care that some of my very own friends and family are not believers? Does it concern me enough to pray for their salvation? Or, better yet, seek to point them to Jesus when the opportunity arises, with my own words and actions? Is my heart anywhere close to Paul's when he said: *"my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved"*?

The 20th-century Christian author C.S. Lewis was said to have kept two different lists in his prayer journal. He once wrote: *"I have two lists of names in my prayers, those for whose conversion I pray and those for whose conversion I give thanks. The little trickle of transferences from List A to List B is a great comfort."* What a joy and encouragement it must have been for Lewis to be able to transfer those names from List A to List B. To be able to physically see on paper what the Lord had done spiritually in His saving grace. What a thrill each transfer must have been to be able to rejoice that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Lord of Salvation and He loves to draw people to Himself. I am very much convinced that our gracious God answers prayers. The Bible says so, and my life (and hopefully your life) is living proof. And it seems that when it comes to praying for the lost, the Lord sovereignly and swiftly takes great delight in answering these petitions. For the Lord honors the evangelistic intercession of His saints.

Who is on your List A? Who do you know that needs to humble themselves, repent, and believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Who is lost and wandering in the worldliness of sin? Who needs the scales from their eyes removed, so that they can finally see *"the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"*? (2 Corinthians 4:6). Write their names down. Make a list like C.S. Lewis once did. Pray for them fervently. Believe that God will work a miracle in their heart and save them from their sin! And when He does, and you see that fruit. You see the baptism. You see the church involvement. You see the Gospel fire in their heart. Move them to List B with a salvation smile, knowing that *"there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents"* (Luke 15:10).

Jesus, give us a heart for the lost souls around us. Transfer them from List A to B for your glory! Amen.

Respect the Blood,
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