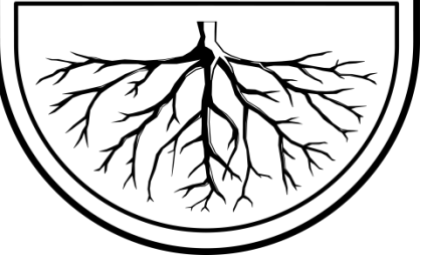




CONTEXT AND CLARIFICATION

ROMANS 10:1-4

LIFE GROUPS



2. Paul is the perfect example of being zealous, passionate and sincere but completely wrong. Before his conversion he was a murderer who genuinely thought he was doing the Lord's will. His zeal was not driven by knowledge. Be reminded that today culture will encourage you that "It doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere" and that could not be further from the truth.

3. **How** did their knowledge add to their passion for the Lord? Or **Why** did it cause them to become more passionate or zealous? This question may need to first be answered by you, so be prepared to go first in case your group needs an example.

4. Although this passage is not focused solely on prayer, we see Paul's heart for his people. He prays for the salvation of all the Jewish people. If we take the time to see how God answers our prayers, maybe we can get to place in our hearts knowing that God will answer our prayers about the salvation of those we love and care for deeply.

5. We are asking God to do what only He can do. What happens when we pray for someone who doesn't want to be saved? If God answers that prayer, is that God graciously over-riding their free-will? When someone is saved, Christians view it as a decision they made and if someone goes to hell they would also argue that God didn't intervene. HOWEVER, as we go through chapter 10 of Romans, we will find the opposite to be true. Someone is saved because GOD delivered them and someone goes to hell because they are held responsible for THEIR sin.

7. In the MacArthur Commentary (pg. 58), he writes "A theology that does not reflect genuine, heartfelt compassion for the lost and a deep desire for their salvation is a theology that is unbiblical."



LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

ICE BREAKER: Do you tend to learn what you're excited about or get excited about what you learn?

1. Read Romans 10:1-4. What was your biggest takeaway from Sunday's sermon?
2. In what ways have you seen Christians zealous, passionate, or sincere, but wrong?
3. What knowledge have you recently learned from God's Word that added to your zeal and passion for the Lord? Why or how?
4. What is the most recent prayer that God has answered, and how did He answer it?
5. When you ask God to save someone, what are you ultimately praying for?
6. Before you were born-again, who in your life pursued and desired you to be saved?
7. Read Romans 9:1-3. Paul was broken-hearted over the Jewish people who were lost. Who are you currently broken-hearted over? Why?



FURTHER STUDY

1 Thessalonians 3:12 (NIV)

¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

Romans 9:1-5 (NIV)

¹ I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit— ² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, ⁴ the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. ⁵ Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.



1 Thessalonians 2:19 (NIV)

¹⁹ For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?

Galatians 1:13-16 (NIV)

¹³ For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

“If you are without Christ, it is not because you are non-elect, but because you are rejecting Christ. You cannot place the blame on anyone else.”—**Kent Hughes**

(Referring to Paul in Romans 10:1) “He wants his predominantly Gentile Christian readers to know what he takes no delight or satisfaction from Israel's fall. Quite the contrary, on his part, Paul remains passionately committed to the salvation of the Jews. His commitment rests in the desire, or will, of his inmost person, the heart; and it comes to expression in his prayer of petition on behalf of Israel, that they might experience the salvation that has been made available in the gospel.” —**Douglas Moo**



“Paul's contention regarding the Jew (v.3) is not the incompleteness of his position, which needed the coming of Christ to perfect it, but the absolute wrong of that position, because it entailed an effort to establish righteousness by human effort rather than by acceptance of a divine gift.” —**Steven J. Cole**