

Praying for an Unbeliever

(Pastor Joe Turner's sermon on October 25, 2015)

Text: Rom. 10:1-4, 10-21

I. Paul's heart for his countrymen.

1. He prayed for them. Vs 1
2. He was burdened for their salvation. Rom. 9:1-3
3. Even though it was not his primary calling. Rom 11:13

II. Our foundation to pray and share with the lost.

1. We have been commissioned. 2 Cor. 5:18-20, Matt 28:18-20
2. We have been resourced and empowered. Jn. 20:21-23, Luke 19:13, Acts 1:8
3. Salvation is God's will for mankind. 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Tim.2:4

III. How a person becomes saved. Rom. 10:10-21

1. Faith does not happen in a vacuum. Someone must tell me about Jesus before I can believe. Vs 14
2. When I hear God speak to me through His word, the Holy Spirit is there with the gift of faith to believe it. I don't generate faith but I have to receive it. Vs 17, Eph. 2:8-9, Rom. 12:3.
3. Even though salvation is a gift given to us by God, we can choose to reject it. Vs 18-20 Deut. 32:21, Isa. 65:1-2

IV. Forces that oppose the gift of the gospel and salvation.

1. Demonic deception. 2 Cor. 4:3-4, 2 Tim. 2:26
2. Pride - people must realize their sin and need for forgiveness. *"I know better, I don't need God."*
3. Denial of death – denial of their mortality. Psalm 90:1-12 *"number our days,"* Psalm 103:14-18
4. Worldly fulfillment. Matt. 5:6
5. Bitterness (at God and others). Matt. 6:14-15
6. Shame and self-hatred. Isa. 53:6
7. Fear – the loss of friends and family, the unknown. Lk14:26, Jn. 12:42-43, Matt 10:28-31

V. Specific Prayers

1. 1Tim. 2:1-6 – Pray for somebody to be saved.
2. Matt. 9:35-38 – Pray that we would be moved with compassion to pray for the lost.
3. Col. 4:3-6 – Pray that we would have opportunity, courage, clarity, discernment, and desire in how we steward the gospel.