

A MESSAGE TO SOUL WINNERS

BIBLE TEXT : Romans 9:1-3; 10:1-21; 11:1-36

LESSON 387 **Senior Course**

MEMORY VERSE: "I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God" (Romans 10:2, 3).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Romans 9:1-3

¹ I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,
² That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.
³ For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

Romans 10:1-21

¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.
² For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.
³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.
⁴ For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.
⁵ For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.
⁶ But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*.)
⁷ Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)
⁸ But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;
⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Zeal for Souls

1. The Apostle desired the Israelites' salvation at any cost, Romans 9:1-3;

Acts 20:31

³¹ Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

1 Corinthians 9:22

²² To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.

2. Earnest prayer was made, Romans 10:1-3;

Jeremiah 9:1

¹ Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

Luke 19:41-42

⁴¹ And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,

⁴² Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things *which belong* unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

Acts 4:23-31

²³ And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

²⁴ And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou *art* God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

²⁵ Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

²⁶ The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

²⁷ For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

²⁸ For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

²⁹ And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

³⁰ By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

³¹ And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

3. Israel was without excuse, Romans 10:19-21;

Isaiah 65:12

¹² Therefore will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose *that* wherein I delighted not.

Matthew 23:37

³⁷ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!

God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

¹¹ For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

¹² For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

¹⁵ And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

¹⁸ But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

¹⁹ But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by *them that are* no people, *and* by a foolish nation I will anger you.

²⁰ But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.

²¹ But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and

Matthew 23:38

³⁸ Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. 4. The majority of Israelites became blinded and they fell, devoid of faith, Romans 11:7-14; Isaiah 6:10; II Co-rinthians 3:14-16; 4:3, 4.

II Proclamation of the Gospel

1. The Gospel brings life through faith in Christ, Romans 10:4-10;

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Philippians 3:9-11

⁹ And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

¹⁰ That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

¹¹ If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

2. "Whosoever will" may come, Romans 10:11-13;

Acts 10:34-35

³⁴ Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

³⁵ But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

Acts 10:43

⁴³ To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

1 John 5:1

¹ Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

Revelation 22:17

¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

3. Proclamation is necessary to the Gospel's growth, Romans 10:14-18;

Matthew 24:14

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Mark 16:15-16

¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Luke 9:1

¹ Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Luke 9:2

² And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

III Salvation by Faith

1. The Gentiles are grafted into the True Vine through faith, Romans 11:15-17, 24;

John 15:1-6

¹ I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

gainsaying people.

Romans 11:1-36

¹ I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, *of* the tribe of Benjamin.

² God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,
³ Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

⁴ But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to *the image of* Baal.

⁵ Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

⁶ And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

⁷ What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded

⁸ (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

⁹ And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them:

¹⁰ Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.

¹¹ I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through their fall salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

¹² Now if the fall of them *be* the

⁵ I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

⁶ If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

Acts 28:28

²⁸ Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and *that* they will hear it.

Ephesians 2:12-19

¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*;

¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

¹⁶ And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

¹⁷ And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

¹⁸ For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

¹⁹ Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

2. Boasting is excluded, Romans 11:18-22;

John 3:27

²⁷ John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

1 Corinthians 4:7

⁷ For who maketh thee to differ *from another*? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive *it*, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received *it*?

3. The day is coming when the remnant of Israel shall be saved, Romans 11:1-6, 23, 25-32;

Zechariah

13:6

⁶ And *one* shall say unto him, What *are* these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, *Those* with which I was wounded *in* the house of my friends.

Zechariah

13:9

⁹ And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It *is* my people: and they shall say, The LORD *is* my God.

Hebrews

8:8-12

⁸ For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

⁹ Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

¹¹ And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

¹² For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

4. God's wisdom is unsearchable, Romans 11:33-36;

Job 5:9

⁹ Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous

riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

¹³ For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

¹⁴ If by any means I may provoke to emulation *them which are my flesh*, and might save some of them.

¹⁵ For if the casting away of them *be* the reconciling of the world, what *shall* the receiving of *them be*, but life from the dead?

¹⁶ For if the firstfruit *be* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*: and if the root *be* holy, so *are* the branches.

¹⁷ And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;

¹⁸ Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.

¹⁹ Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

²⁰ Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

²¹ For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest he also spare not thee.

²² Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

²³ And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again.

²⁴ For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how

things without number:

Isaiah 40:28

²⁸ Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is no searching of his understanding.*

Hebrews 4:13

¹³ Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

NOTES:

Throughout the years of history men have pondered the most profitable activity in which to engage themselves. Myriad have been the goals that men have set for themselves to reach as the ultimate or highest possible degree of usefulness while on earth. The financier has used his skill to obtain and distribute wealth; the poet has thrilled the hearts of millions with his ability to arrange and produce rhythm with words; the musician has often brought serenity and harmony to mankind; and the artist portrays his ability on the canvas for all to behold. But, without doubt, the highest calling and occupation ever to thrill and hold the heart of man is the call of God to the winning of souls for the Kingdom of Heaven. Not only does this unique call contain the greatest of earthly joys when followed, but it also is inherent with the promise of eternal reward. "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

Utmost Value

The Apostle Paul at his conversion caught this vision of utmost value, and immediately his life's ambition became centred upon winning the souls of his fellow men for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord taught this Apostle, as well as the other Apostles, that entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven was not confined to the Jewish people but was open to all men everywhere who would repent and turn from their sins unto righteousness. Being a Hebrew, Paul felt a great love for the people of his own nation, and with great compassion he did everything possible to help the Jewish people realise and receive the truth of the Gospel. His zeal went so far that it made him willing to give his life and the hope of his own salvation in behalf of the people of his own nation. The price for salvation of mankind had already been paid, and no further sacrifice could have availed anything; but think of this man's willingness and the extent of his zeal! No wonder that Paul became perhaps the most successful soul sinner of all the Christian era.

Consecration

Any man can be a winner of souls, for the call of God is open to all who will answer; but the man must be willing, like the Apostle Paul, to forego any or all earthly gain and pleasure. The law of sacrifice of self and ambitions runs throughout the Bible for those who successfully perform God's work. The man who presents himself "a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is . . . reasonable service," is the man who will bring others to God and to the Gospel. The rewards are great. "Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life" (Mark 10:29, 30).

There is nothing so much honoured of God as a holy, consecrated life; nothing so essential to the growth in Christian

much more shall these, which be the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?

²⁵ For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

²⁶ And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

²⁷ For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

²⁸ As concerning the gospel, *they are* enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, *they are* beloved for the fathers' sakes.

²⁹ For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance.

³⁰ For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:

³¹ Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.

³² For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

³³ O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

³⁴ For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

³⁵ Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

³⁶ For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.

experience, and nothing that will as surely bring the power for service, as consecration. Think of the consecration of Moses, who, like the Apostle, was so much absorbed in his calling that his life meant less to him than the well-being of Israel. In thinking of these two outstanding men of God and the consecrations they made because of their zeal for winning souls, one should not forget to think of a greater than Moses or Paul, the One who died that sin might be forgiven. Jesus is our perfect example in consecration and implicit obedience to the will of God. He might have looked forward to the joy of lost souls that were to be saved, both through His life and his death; or He might have looked to the glory of sitting at the right hand of the Father; or He might have looked forward to any number of heavenly joys; but His whole soul's delight seemed to be in doing His Father's will. The man or woman who through consecration can reach this plane of living will surely be a soul winner for God.

Prayer

After showing how deep was his feeling toward the Israelites and how willingly he consecrated himself to win their salvation. Paul took the next natural Christian step of praying for his unsaved countrymen. The heart of every true Christian should feel the same disposition. God wants His children to be a holy priesthood that their prayers may ascend to Heaven in behalf of a dying world. He wants intercessors at the Throne of God to beat back the power of sin in the world today and rescue souls. God's people must prevail in prayer if souls are to be delivered from the power of the enemy.

If one is born again, his prayers are precious – and how much more so after he is sanctified! It is then one becomes a priest of the living God, so separated from self and personal desires that he can go into the very presence of God and plead for a lost world.

Jesus wept in tender love and pity for the lost, and His Spirit today makes one feel, in a measure for the lost as He felt. The more one is filled with the Spirit, the more one is like Jesus. Self-enjoyment is lost sight of, and one has fellowship with Him in His sufferings and in prayer and labours for souls. The highest enjoyment of a true Christian is seeing some poor sinner brought to the feet of Jesus.

Everyone who has a clean heart and a pure conscience can and should pray. It may be on the streetcar, at the workbench or in the office; but the soul can breathe a prayer to God, and the incense of praise can be ascending from the heart. God Himself will meet the heart when lifted in prayer before Him for the salvation of lost souls. May this fervency of spirit and wrestling before the Throne of Grace spread until God's immortal presence will be brought down and hearts everywhere will cry out to God in desperation for mercy while mercy is to be found!

Proclamation

After deep consecration and prayer, the child of God is ready to enter the most wonderful of all fields of labour — that of bearing the good news of salvation to the hearts of men. Every man, woman, and child is a candidate for God's salvation, therefore the soul winner's field of activity is unlimited. God's plan is for those who are saved to tell the Gospel story of redemption to those who are not saved. Proclaiming the Gospel in this manner is so necessary that the Bible declares: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

One naturally thinks of a preacher as the man who stands in the pulpit to deliver a sermon, but the application is much wider.

Among the dictionary definitions of "preach" is "to proclaim, to publish, to declare publicly"; which opens the field to all the redeemed ones. The sermon from the pulpit, delivered under the anointing and unction of the Spirit, has its important place; but the layman or the laywoman, talking to his neighbour, to his fellow workman, to the shopkeeper, to the individuals of his acquaintance and contact, can in many instances influence someone to Christ who might not otherwise come within the minister's scope. A sermon is usually confined within the four walls of the church, and many people will not come to the church to listen; but the lay worker's activities are not confined in any wise. His story of God's love, backed up by a consistently lived Christian life, can influence the person who never enters the place of worship.

It is not left to the individual Christian whether he witnesses for Christ or not. The Apostles and disciples were commissioned specifically to this duty and sent out by the Saviour. Paul stated that "necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" (I Corinthians 9:16). "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20), is another statement of responsibility spoken by the Christians of old. "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (I Peter 3:15). "They overcame him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death" (Revelation 12:11). These are but a few of the statements of the Bible that show the importance and necessity of Christian people proclaiming the wonderful things that God and the Gospel have done for them. It is God's method of making the Gospel heard in the uttermost parts of the earth.

**"If you'll bring the one next to you,
And I bring the one next to me,
In no time at all we'll have them all,
So win them, win them one by one."**

QUESTIONS

1. Why was Paul an outstanding soul winner for God?
2. What three things are necessary in a Christian's life to win souls?
3. Who are included in the Lord's plan of salvation?
4. What must a person do in order to be saved?
5. Why is it so very important for Christians to testify and tell the Gospel story?
6. How can a person obtain faith?
7. Why were some of the Jewish people broken from the Lord's olive tree?
8. What people took the place of the Jewish people in the Lord's olive tree? How?
9. When will the Israelites again come into God's favour?