



# Light of Messiah Ministries

.....proclaiming Jesus, the Jewish Messiah!

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## Paul's Heart for His People

**L**ast month I communicated the sadness I experienced while watching the movie "The Passion of the Christ". My sorrow came as much from watching some of my Jewish people reject Jesus as it did from watching the crucifixion itself. **The focus of our ministry is helping Jewish people come to know Jesus. That is our passion; passion for the Jewish people.** But the sorrow I have, the grief that we feel when Jewish people reject Jesus, is a feeling the Apostle Paul experienced as well.

**The Apostle Paul was called from a very religious background. He was Jewish.** Before becoming a believer in Jesus, he hated followers of Jesus, and had them put to death. However, God got to Paul's heart. Jesus revealed Himself to Paul. His life was changed. He became the greatest voice of the truth of Jesus in all of history. The Apostle Paul wrote most of the New Testament.

**The Apostle Paul was Jewish, and yet he was called by God, as an apostle to the Gentiles.** His main ministry was as a church planter in Asia minor, areas in which he was naturally going to meet and reach mostly non-Jewish people. Paul spent his time walking the streets, traveling from place to place, proclaiming the message of salvation in Jesus, reaching people for the Lord, disciplining new believers, raising up leadership, and starting churches. He was very successful. **In a large part, the church began as a result of the Apostle Paul's ministry.** And, again, the primary group he was called to were the Gentiles.

**However, Paul's unceasing burden for his kinsmen is evident in his life and ministry.** It is an area of his minis-



try that is overlooked by many, and yet, I believe it is an area that must be understood by the church today. **Paul's heart for the Jewish people, the special place that they took in his life, is a reflection of God's love for the Jewish people as well. The Jewish people had a special place in Paul's heart, they have a special place in God's heart, and they need to have a special place in our heart as well.**

**As we watch Paul's ministry develop through the Book of Acts he makes his love for his Jewish people evident.** Though called as an apostle to the Gentiles, Paul makes it a point to go to the synagogue first in every city he visited. There, in the synagogue, he would present the truth of Jesus to the Jewish community. **He was looking for those Jewish people who might open their hearts to the Messiah.** Paul spent a lot of his time in the synagogue, but once he had proclaimed the message of Jesus to his Jewish people, he would move on to the Gentiles. Though he was oftentimes rejected by many, if not most of his kinsmen, Paul did not give up on them. Neither does God.

When Paul wrote his letter to the church in Rome, 60 or 70 years after the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, a problem had developed in the church. Because of the incredible work of those first Jewish missionaries, Peter, Paul, Barnabas, Silas, and others, the church had grown. It had also become primarily non-Jewish. **Unfortunately, some in the church were beginning to look unfavorably on the Jewish community.** People began to forget the importance of the Jewish people in God's heart and plan. **Some were even saying that God had rejected the Jewish people!**

Paul surely remembered Jesus' instructions to the disciples, "*Do not go the way of the Gentiles, but go first to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*" He knew that Jesus sent the disciples out, first to Jerusalem (to the Jewish people), then Judea, then Samaria, then to the uttermost parts of the world. **Paul had a burning desire in his heart to see his Jewish people come to know the Messiah who had come for them.** Paul remembered that Jesus wept over Jerusalem. Jesus' heart broke for those in the Jewish community who were rejecting Him. **Paul's heart was broken, too.**

Paul began his letter to the church in Rome by proclaiming the salvation message when he says, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, it is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe; to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile." (Romans 1:16) Some have said that the this verse is more correctly translated "to the Jew especially, and also to the Gentile."

Then in Chapters 9-11 Paul comes to a pinnacle in his letter. He had already established and penned some of the most

foundational doctrines of the faith. Then Paul turns his attention to the Jewish community and his burden for them. He wanted the church to know how important the Jewish people are!

**In the first section of Romans 9 Paul states that he would give up his salvation and spend eternity separated from God for His Jewish people. Whoa!** The great apostle Paul? I am sure there were many in the church in Rome thinking, “Who cares about the Jews? God has rejected them. They killed Jesus. They aren’t important to God anymore!”

**In Chapter 10 Paul goes on to express his unceasing anguish in his heart for the Jewish community and his heart’s desire that they might be saved.** He knew that God was not giving up on the Jewish people. He was not going to give up on them either; not by a long shot.

In the beginning of Chapter 11 Paul asks a rhetorical question, “Has God rejected the Jewish people?”, then he asks, “So, I ask again, have they stumbled so as to fall beyond recovery?” Obviously there were those in the church in Rome who were saying that God had rejected the Jewish people and that they had fallen beyond recovery. **They were saying that the Jewish people had been “punted” by God.** The Jews were no longer important. God did not care about them. **But, Paul corrects that misunderstanding by saying that not only has God not rejected the Jewish people, but “salvation has come to the Gentiles in order to provoke Israel to jealousy!” (Rom. 11:11)**

**The Jewish people have a special place in God’s heart and plan!** There is only one group of people, in all of Scripture, mentioned by God, by name, about whom God says, “*Church, in your efforts to reach the world with the message of grace and salvation in Jesus, I want you to know, there is one group of people who have a special place in My heart. There is one group of people who have a special place in My plan. There is one group of people who you are indebted to. And, if it were*



*not for this group of people...you would not have the church, you would not have the cross, you would not have the Lord’s Supper, you would not have the Bible, you would not have Jesus, you would not have salvation. DON’T FORGET THE JEWISH PEOPLE!”* If there has been one group of people almost completely neglected by the church for the past 2000 years it has been my Jewish people. Some have called the Jewish people “**the great omission of the Great commission.**”

**Paul knew the importance of the Jewish people.** In fact, Paul says something in Romans 11 that is very telling. He says, “*I magnify my ministry to the Gentiles, in order that I might save some of my own Jewish people.*” Paul saw his ministry to the Gentiles as a means to get the Gospel back to the Jewish community! **Paul knew. We need to know as well.**

We spend our time in the church, teaching, and helping our brothers and sister in Christ understand more about our people and the Jewish roots of our faith. But, we have an agenda as well. **Like the Apostle Paul, we are magnifying our ministry among the Gentiles in order that we might see some of our Jewish people come to know Jesus!**

### How to Contact Us

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**Please, do not forget that we are here. If you have a Jewish friend, get us in touch with them.**

Recently, some people who know of our ministry, invited me and my wife to meet another couple. Lannie is Jewish, and her husband Bill, was raised Catholic. We spent the evening eating dinner, getting to know one another, and eventually talking about spiritual issues.

**Lannie was very interested in how I became a believer in Jesus.** Bill, wanted to know more about the Jewish roots of Christianity. It was a wonderful evening.

**“Salvation has come to the Gentiles to provoke Israel to jealousy!”**

**God wants to use you in the life of your Jewish friends.** We cannot help you unless you let us know your needs. Please let us know what we can do!

## Thank You!

I don’t know if I can say with conviction that I would spend eternity separated from God for the sake of my people.

**I can say that it breaks my heart to see a majority of my people reject our Messiah Jesus.**

**I can say that we will do everything in our power to reach Jewish people with the message of Jesus.**

**I can say we will do everything to help you as well.**

**Our ministry is important. We ARE impacting the Jewish community with the Gospel!** As always thank you for standing with us in our ministry to the Jewish community. Please keep our staff in your prayers.

Serving Him,

Murray Tilles...for the staff  
 Light of Messiah Ministries