

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

PRAYING FOR UNBELIEVERS

Romans 10:1-4 "Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes."

Since the beginning of chapter 9, Paul has poured out his heart to God especially for the Jews who thought they were godly, devout worshippers of the true God. He is passionate that they give up their personal efforts to become righteous before Yahweh through their obedience of the Law. He desires that they hear and believe and have faith in Jesus who is the only hope for their salvation.

In today's devotional verses Paul's plea for the "Israelites is that they may be saved." He recognizes in these verses they are spiritually zealous people. However, in their zeal they have established their own path to righteousness rather than take to heart God's grace for them in and through Jesus The Christ.

The spiritual condition of many today is parallel to that of Israel in Paul's day. There are many who are spiritual, but they have misplaced their faith. They believe that it is by their efforts that they can earn God's favor and blessing. Others believe it is with a combination of what Jesus has done for them and their own efforts that they please God. And, of course, there are those who simply live their lives for the moment with no thought about eternity at all.

Paul, seeing the spiritual condition of Israel prayed that they would see the error of their ways. He pleaded with God that they would be saved. You also are able to pray to God for those you know or are concerned about who do not know that Jesus alone "is the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6). You can pray that they come to believe that there is salvation for them only through faith in Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:12)

Your prayers in behalf of those who are spiritual, but not believers in Jesus Christ alone for their salvation and your prayers for those who are not spiritual at all are

heard by God. Remember, “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16) Pray for them daily!

Prayer: Lord, I pray for all who I know who do not believe in Jesus for their salvation. In His holy name. Amen.

Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,
I know not how to ask or what to say;
I only know my need, as deep as life,
And only You can teach me how to pray.

Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
Help me to see Your purpose and Your will—
Where I have failed, what I have done amiss;
Held in forgiving love, let me be still.

Come with the strength I lack, bring vision clear
Of human need; O give me eyes to see
Fulfillment of my life in love outpoured,
My life in You, O Christ; Your love in me.
(LSB 769)