

# Speaking to the soul



## Sharing the Gospel

**My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them. Romans 9:2-3**

The apostle Paul was proud of his Jewish heritage and was passionate that his Jewish brothers and sisters should share in the wonder of knowing Christ as their personal Lord and saviour. But look at the language he used! He was willing to be cursed forever if it meant that the Jews would find

salvation. This is incredibly strong language and shows very clearly that it meant everything to him.

Paul knew that the Jewish people were in a very privileged position. They had been chosen to be God's adopted children. God had revealed his glory to them, made covenants with them and given them the law. They had Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as their ancestors and Christ himself was a Jew. They had every advantage - and Paul couldn't cope with the pain of seeing them reject Jesus.

I want to turn Paul's words into a question to you and me. How desperate are we that our friends and family should find new life in Christ? It looks to me, much of the time, as if we have come to accept things the way they are. Of course, we would be delighted if other people came to believe in Jesus. We would be happy to encourage them to do so. But I rarely meet Paul's level of passion that other people should become Christians.

I believe that we need to pray for our churches to become far more passionate about sharing the good news of Jesus. Christians are a small minority in our society - and that will not change unless we acquire some of Paul's passionate longing for other people to follow Christ.

## **QUESTION**

What do you learn from Paul's burning desire to see his Jewish brothers and sisters follow Christ?

## **PRAYER**

Loving Father, thank you that you have given me new life in Christ. May the wonder of knowing you give me a constantly

deepening desire to see other people become Christians as well. Amen

*Photograph - St Colman's Church, Dunmurry Parish*