**Anguish Over the Lost**

**Romans 9:1-24, with 9:30-32a, 10:1-4, 8-18a**

**Introduction**

The Matchless Pearl

A difficult passage of Scripture

1. **Message of Romans 9**
2. Salvation is a gift from God.
   1. Paul’s ethnic brothers and sisters refused the gift and tried to earn it
   2. People often misunderstand the Gospel today and try to earn it.
   3. Sequence matters: faith must precede works, which flow from love for God.
   4. God’s judgment follows from Who He is: Holy.
3. Salvation is binary.
   1. There will be judgment.
   2. Jesus is the only salvation.
   3. Apart from Jesus, people will face judgment on their own merit.
4. Chain of salvation
   1. Believers are sent.
   2. Believers preach.
   3. People hear.
   4. People believe and are saved.
5. There is only one Way to God.
   1. How the apologists address this
   2. Exclusivity is intrinsic to the Gospel itself: John 3:16-18.
6. **How to respond**
   1. Follow Paul’s example.
      1. Grieve like Paul! God grieves, too (Ezek 18:23,32; I Tim 2:3-4).
      2. Pray like Paul.
      3. Preach like Paul.
      4. Do every right thing to get the Word out.
   2. Why does it matter that we know these truths?
      1. Motivation
         1. Love of people
         2. Glorify God
      2. Heart (Ezek 11:19, 36:26; soft hearts are motivated)
      3. Fruit (God desires fruit from all believers. All are called to love our neighbor).
   3. Do we really believe?

We feel and act according to what we believe.