

A.M. OUTLINE
7/30/2023

REASONS FOR PAUL'S TEARS

(Acts 20:17 – 38)

1. (Romans 9:1-3) “I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart”

Paul is grieved that many of his own people trust in their ancestry for salvation and would not convert and trust in Jesus and His gospel for salvation.
(Philippians 3:3-9; Romans 10:1-3)

We, too, lament the spiritual condition of many in our nation who heed not the gospel.

2. (2 Corinthians 2:4) “and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears”

When writing his first letter to them, it was with loving tears to correct them.

When we correct another, it is out of love for another., not that we love correcting.

3. (Acts 20:31) “I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears”

Paul preached in Ephesus for 3 years giving warnings about false teaching.

Yes, preachers have the charge: (2 Timothy 4:2) “Preach the word! Be ready ... convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”

4. (Philippians 3:18) “For many walk of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ”

These “enemies” are identified in (v17) as those who did not follow Paul’s example, and in (v19) those “who set their mind on earthly things.”

“I have told you often” - following Paul’s example, we will not stop warning, exhorting, and instructing.

5. (Acts 20:19) “serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews”

Paul’s tears were not because of fear for his life; rather, because the opposition would hinder the gospel being preached. (v24) “But none of these things move me, nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God”

In our generation, in America, we have a “Freedom of Religion” Amendment; so, pray that we may continue to preach without fear of molestation.

CLOSE: (2 Corinthians 12:15) “I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls”