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**“Israel’s Rejection of the Christ”**  
A Study of the Book of Romans  
Pastor Tim Allen

**Key Truth:** The grave condition of Israel’s rejection of their Messiah prompts Paul’s willingness to take drastic measures to bring about their salvation.

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Paul recognizes the priority of the Jews in salvation (Romans 1:16-17). Even though Paul was commissioned by Christ to be an apostles to the Gentiles (Acts 22:21; 26:17), that didn’t mean he shouldn’t also preach to the children of Israel (see Acts 9:15). Of course, Paul started out preaching in the synagogues of Israel, and to Jews particularly. But there was a turning point in his ministry when he began to focus particularly on the Gentiles (Acts 13:45-46). However, Paul never totally gave up his desire to see all Israel saved.

## **DISCUSS**

Read **Romans 9:1-5** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled **“Israel’s Rejection of the Christ.”**

## **DIG IN**

### **1. Paul’s Anguish** (Romans 9:1-2)

Why do you think Paul needs to affirm his truthfulness in verses 1-2? What kinds of opposition might he have faced in writing to the Roman Christians?

Do we also experience that level of anguish of heart for a loved one or friend who rejected Christ? Why or why not?

How might the intensity of Paul’s anguish of heart have matched that of Jesus Christ whose own people rejected him (see John 1:11)?

### **2. Paul’s Wish** (Romans 9:3)

What was Paul’s wish (v. 3) and why is that so shocking? Give an example of that kind of shocking desire in our world today.

Is it possible for Paul to have been accursed for the sake of his people? Why or why not? Why then do you think Paul said what he said?

Why could Paul never have acted as a Kinsman Redeemer (see Boaz in the Book of Ruth) for his people? Who can be?

### **3. Israel’s Blessings** (Romans 9:4-5)

Describe the blessings that Paul lists in verses 4-5. What is so unique and important about these blessings? In what ways do they describe God’s plan for the salvation of Gentiles?

In what ways were Israel’s blessings rejected by the Israelites in Jesus’ and Paul’s day?

Why is it important that we remember that the spiritual blessings of God, while glorious, do not save us?

## **DO**

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?