

## PAUL'S TEARS

(Acts 20:25-38)

### THE OCCASIONS FOR PAUL'S TEARS

#### 1. (Romans 9:2-3) "I have great heaviness and continual sorrow of heart ... "

Paul uses a hypothetical expression to illustrate his horror that his own people would reject the gospel. (Philippians 3:3-9; Romans 10:1-3)

We, too, lament the spiritual condition of many in our nation who forget God; heed not the message.

#### 2. (2 Corinthians 2:4) "... I wrote to you with many tears ... "

When Paul wrote his first letter to them, it was a rebuke with tears and love that he had for them.

Our rebuke of one another is out of love, not that we love rebuking one another.

#### 3. (Acts 20:31) "... I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears"

Paul reviews 36-months of preaching to Christians in Ephesus with these words.

Preachers have the charge: (2 Tim. 4:2) "Preach the word ... reprove, rebuke, exhort ... "

#### 4. (Philippians 3:18) "... and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ"

Who are the enemies? - (1 John 2:18) "there are many anti-Christ's;" those who deny God exists; those who deny Jesus is the Christ; any who would not follow the Bible and would try to defeat Christianity; also, those Christians who live a hypocritical life and cause others discredit it.

"I have told you often" - because of the dangers of unfaithfulness, we need to hear the warning again.

#### 5. (Acts 20:19) "serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews"

(Acts 9:20-25; Acts 17:12-14)

Though in physical danger, Paul was not in tears being fearful for his life; rather, the preaching of the gospel being hindered caused the tears.

In our generation, in America, we have a "freedom of religion" amendment.  
Pray that we may continue to preach without fear of molestation.

#### 6. (2 Tim. 1:4) "Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy"

Knowing of Timothy's tears, Paul perhaps had a sympathetic tear.

(Romans 12:15) "... weep with those who weep"