

# Question and Answer.

No. 144

*Do the words of Romans 9. 3 mean that Paul actually wished for himself, on behalf of his brethren, Israel after the flesh, to be accursed from Christ ?*

The statement must be looked at in the light of Holy Scripture generally.

First, it would be impossible for a creature, even though a justified person before God, to become accursed on behalf of (huper) others, however willing. Only a *personally sinless* One, the Christ of God, could become a curse for sinners (Gal. 3. 13).

Secondly, as Paul was now in blessing, his sins and their judgment having been borne by Another, he *could not* become "anathema" from Christ. His name was in the book of life, and the gifts and calling of God are without change of mind.

Thirdly, Paul's love and loyalty to, and longing for, Christ, (see the Philippian epistle) *could not* be less than his love for his unsaved friends.

Fourthly, the actual language is, "I was wishing," or "I used to wish," referring to his state of heart before conversion. It was a state corresponding to this in which Israel still remained. They despised Christ and had not repented of their cry, "His blood be on us and on our children." Hence Paul's poignant anguish of soul for Israel. Have we such concern for the lost ?