

01-17-16

Series: The Book of Romans

The Gospel and God's Righteousness (22)

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Romans 1:1-17

(Continuation from 01/10/16)

B. Paul's Interest in the Church: Enslavement to the Gospel, Romans 1:8-15

In verses 8-15, Paul's words suggest nine marks of true spiritual service:

Romans 1:8-10 (NASB)

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.

⁹ For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the *preaching of the* gospel of His Son, is my witness *as to* how unceasingly I make mention of you,

¹⁰ always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

- 1) a thankful spirit (v. 8),
 - 2) a concerned spirit (v. 9-10a),
 - 3) a willing and submissive spirit (v. 10b),
 - 4) a loving spirit (v. 11),
 - 5) a humble spirit (v. 12),
 - 6) a fruitful spirit (v. 13),
 - 7) an obedient spirit (v. 14),
 - 8) an eager spirit (v. 15).
- A ninth, a bold spirit, is mentioned in v. 16a.

Romans 1:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

5. (Romans 1:14-15) Gospel— Preaching— Witnessing— Ministers— Dedication: the gospel stirred Paul with a deep sense of indebtedness and a readiness to reach all men.

Romans 1:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴ I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

¹⁵ So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

Note two points.

1. The word “debtor” (*opheiletēs*) means “to owe, to be obligated, to be bound by duty”. The Greek is impossible to translate into English, for two ideas are being expressed by Paul.

He was a “debtor”.....

- a. because Christ had done so much for him (saved him).
- b. because Christ had called him to preach (given him a task to do).

The *indebtedness* was deeply felt by Paul. The idea is that it was intense, unwavering, relentless, powerful. The sense of debt just would not let Paul go. He was compelled to preach the gospel; therefore, he could do nothing else. He was obligated and duty-bound to preach it. He actually felt that he owed the gospel to the world; therefore, if he kept quiet, it would be worse than knowing the cure for the most terrible disease of history and refusing to share it.

Note how Paul declared his indebtedness to the whole world. He made a contrast between the Greeks and the Barbarians. He meant that he owed the gospel to all nationalities and cultures, to all the peoples of the earth whether civilized or uncivilized, industrialized or primitive, rich or poor. (The Greeks considered everyone a barbarian who did not speak the Greek language and adopt Greek culture.) He made a contrast between the wise and the unwise. He meant that he owed the gospel to the educated and the uneducated, the learned and the unlearned, the motivated and the unmotivated, the seeking and the complacent.

Thought 1. Paul sensed a *deep indebtedness* to share the glorious news of salvation with the world. The *answer* to eternal life is now known and must be proclaimed to the whole world. To keep the message to oneself is the most inexcusable and criminal act in all of human history. The glorious news that death has been conquered and that man can now live eternally must be proclaimed. We who know the wonderful news are *indebted* to get the news out to the world.

John 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 5:24 (NASB)

²⁴“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

Romans 1:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴“I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

¹⁵“So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.”

Romans 1:14-15 (KJV)

¹⁴“I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the

wise, and to the unwise.

¹⁵ **So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.**”

2. The word “ready” or “eager” (*prothumon*) means “an urgent willingness”. Paul experienced both a willingness and an urgency to preach the gospel. **Note the words, “as much as in me is” or “for my part”**. Paul wanted to take all that was in him and pour it into people—all the energy and effort, all the truth and knowledge of the gospel. There was nothing that could keep him from sharing the gospel, not if he had a chance to share it. He *allowed* no hindrance to enter his life that would affect his message. He was possessed and obsessed with a readiness to preach the glorious message of the living Lord.

1 Corinthians 9:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.”

Matthew 10:7 (NASB)

⁷ “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

Matthew 10:27 (NASB)

²⁷ “What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear *whispered in your ear*, proclaim upon the housetops.”

Mark 16:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ “And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

Luke 9:60 (NASB)

⁶⁰ “But He said to him, ‘Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.’”

John 9:4 (NASB)

⁴ “We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.”

Acts 4:20 (NASB)

²⁰ “For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

Acts 5:20 (NASB)

²⁰ “Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life.”

Jeremiah 20:9 (NASB)

⁹ “But if I say, ‘I will not remember Him Or speak anymore in His name,’ Then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; And I am weary of holding *it* in, And I cannot endure *it*.”

Amos 3:8 (NASB)

⁸ “A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken! Who can but prophesy?”