

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: Romans – Message 3

2017 VISION: *Prioritizing God*

Scriptures for Today: Romans 1:8-16 – Paul reveals his heart and readiness

Title of Today's Message: **I am debtor. I am ready. I am not ashamed.**

– It is time for us to get out of God's way!

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we began our verse by verse study of chapter 1. From Rome to the entire world, the good news of Christ has saved all those who have **BELIEVED** it *by faith!* In the introduction to Romans, God took the time to lay out the boundaries for His gospel to all believers in a city where the devil would establish his **FALSE gospel** and **FALSE religion**. God wanted no doubt about **His gospel** because *it is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe it!* Today, we will see Paul's **HEART** and readiness to preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. And, we will begin to comprehend the extent to which we are **NOT** where we *think* (Rev 3:17) or *ought* to be in our heart and readiness to preach the gospel for our Lord's sake and glory. The message for today is **SIMPLE**. The degree to which we **CHANGE** our current behavior and actions to **DO** what we **SHOULD** is up to us...

PREACHING NOTES

1. First, Paul **shares his heart** to the believers at Rome and **his desire** for **FRUIT**. *Rom 1:8-13*

- ✓ Paul was **thankful to God** and the believers for **their faith** and testimony to the whole world.

Philippians 1:14 *"And many of the brethren in the Lord, WAXING CONFIDENT BY MY BONDS, are much more bold to speak the word without fear."*

NOTE The faith and testimony of Roman believers had impacted the entire world for God's glory. It encouraged Paul also ... think about that! We need to see each other's faith in action! Are you encouraging others to preach the Word and make disciples by your own actions?

REFLECT _____

- ✓ Paul was **prayerful to God** to come **by the will of God** to help establish and comfort them.

1 Thess 3:2 *"And sent Timotheus ... to ESTABLISH you, and to COMFORT you concerning your faith"*

NOTE God was his witness! Paul sought to invest the Word of God into the lives of people. He prayed for believers to be established and growing for God's glory! He also knew that as he helped and taught others, he would be comforted and encouraged by their mutual faith.

REFLECT _____

- ✓ Paul was **faithful to God** to **desire, ask** and **sow seeds** that would bring FRUIT for God's glory.

Psalms 126:5-6 *"They that SOW IN TEARS shall REAP IN JOY. He that GOETH forth and WEEPETH, bearing PRECIOUS SEED, shall doubtless come again with REJOICING, bringing his sheaves with him."*

John 15:16 *"YE have not chosen me, but I have chosen YOU, and ordained YOU, that YE SHOULD GO and BRING FORTH FRUIT, and that YOUR FRUIT should REMAIN..."*

NOTE Do you really want fruit for God's glory? Do you really care about people's souls? Paul was forthright with God that he wanted FRUIT for His glory! We ought to desire fruit and then ask God and sow God's Word into the hearts of people WITH TEARS! Where are our tears?

REFLECT _____

2. Paul declares his **readiness** to preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ! *Rom 1:14-16*

- ✓ ***I am DEBTOR both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.***

Psalm 37:21 *"The wicked borroweth, and PAYETH NOT again: but the righteous sheweth mercy"*
 Galatians 5:3 *"I testify...to every man that is CIRCUMCISED, that he is a DEBTOR to do the whole law."*
 Romans 4:4 *"Now to him that WORKETH is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of DEBT."*
 Ephesians 2:8-9 *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is THE GIFT of God: NOT OF WORKS, lest any many should boast."*

NOTE Most people understand what it means to pay on a debt to a lender. Paul was not talking about his salvation! He did not say he was a debtor to God for salvation. He said he was a DEBTOR to the people of the world – to ALL of them! Because of God's incredible love and mercy and grace that was showed towards him, he considered himself indebted to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. He considered it reasonable service to give one's life to make continual payments to every man, woman, boy and girl until God takes your life.

REFLECT _____

- ✓ ***I am READY to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. (So, as much as in me is...)***

Acts 21:13 *"Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep ... For I AM READY not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."*
 Genesis 18:6 *"And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, MAKE READY quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth."*

NOTE We often think "ready" to preach the gospel is "trained" to speak the right words and to have boldness to speak truth to people. For Paul, "ready" included more than that. He had prayed, learned, taught, preached, loved, hurt and a whole lot more for the gospel's sake. Have you MADE yourself ready to preach the gospel? Who is the Spirit of God leading you to reach? Have you prayed? Have you strategized? As God's church, we need to MAKE ourselves READY. Get your life ready! Get the maps ready! Analyze your neighborhood! Get the names of people in your field and pray! Get paper and pencils and start MAKING READY. It is time for us to go to the next level for the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ's sake! God wants to use US to reach the world! We need to get out of God's way so that He can.

REFLECT _____

- ✓ ***I am NOT ASHAMED of the gospel of Christ: for IT is the power of God unto salvation to EVERY ONE that BELIEVETH; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.***

Psalm 119:80 *"Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be NOT ASHAMED."*
 Romans 5:5 *"And hope maketh NOT ASHAMED; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."*
 2 Timothy 1:8-12 *"Be not therefore ASHAMED of the testimony of our Lord ... For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am NOT ASHAMED: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep..."*

NOTE Although we would never say it and would blush to even consider the thought, the reality is that when we fail to speak up for the gospel ... when we fail to give away a tract ... when we fail to witness to our family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and strangers or invite them to church to hear the truth ... we are in fact in many or most cases ashamed of our Lord and of His gospel. And, if we are honest with God – if He is our witness – we must change that!

REFLECT _____