

“Hey Paul, What Are You?”

(The “I Am” Statements of Paul)

Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 15:8-10

Key Verse: V. 10

1 Cor. 15:10

But by the grace of God **I am** what **I am**; and his grace *which was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Introduction:

About 27 years ago, I came to this verse, and it stimulated my thinking so I wrote this little sermon outline.

I have revisited this passage once again and feel lead of the Lord to share it with you this evening.

I began thinking about Paul’s statement, “**I am what I am by the grace of God.**”

I began to search through the epistles of Paul and see just how many times he used this “I am” statement.

Friends, there are over 50 of them but have no fear, I am only going to mention a few! 😊

After realizing that some of them are repetitive statements, I have summarized them (and of course alliterated them), for brevity and ease of application.

I want us to examine ourselves and see which of these categories we as individuals may or may not fall into.

Hey Paul, what are you?

I. I am Saved! (See below)

♦ Paul simply said, “**I have been born again!**”

1 Tim. 1:15

This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom **I am** chief.

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Hey Paul, what are you?

II. I am Sure! (See below)

♦ Paul simply said, “**I am sure of it too!**”

Romans 8:38

For **I am** persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

2 Tim. 1:12

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 that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Hey Paul, what are you?

III. I am a Servant! (See below)

♦ Paul was a dedicated man with a true servant’s heart!

Romans 1:14

I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

Hey Paul, what are you?

IV. I am a Soul-Winner! (See below)

- ◆ Paul said he was indebted to others to bring them the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ—of which he was not ashamed (V. 16)

Romans 1:15-16

So, as much as in me is, **I am** ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. 16For **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.

Hey Paul, what are you?

V. I am Small! (1 Corinthians 15:9 - text)

1 Cor. 15:9

For **I am** the least of the apostles, that **am not** meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

BUT...

VI. I am Strong! (See below)

- ◆ Paul was made strong by the grace of God!

2 Cor. 12:10

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when **I am** weak, then **am I** strong.

Hey Paul, what are you?

VII. I am Satisfied! (See below)

- ◆ Paul states that in feast or famine, peril or peace, he was satisfied!

Philip. 4:11-12

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state **I am**, *therewith* to be content. 12I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things **I am** instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Hey Paul, what are you?

VIII. I am in a Strait! (See below)

- ◆ Paul states that he will be happy here preaching or happy over there praising, but he really is struggling with staying here!

Philip. 1:23

For **I am** in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

“Hey Paul, anything else?”

Yeah...

IX. I am Set Loose! (See below)

- ◆ Paul states that he is no longer in a “strait” but he is now fixing to be “set loose!”
- ◆ That is what the word “**departure**” means in the Greek!

2 Tim. 4:6

For **I am** now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

Conclusion:

- ◆ Friend, which of these categories do you find yourself in as it relates to you and your spiritual life?
- ◆ Are you saved or are you still lost?
- ◆ Are you satisfied with Jesus and His Will or are you walking afar off and cold and indifferent?
- ◆ If any one of these descriptions of Paul's life does not fit yours, please come now and get it settled with Christ.

Invitation:

- ◆ Friend, will you come to Jesus this evening and allow Him to change your life if you are lost?
- ◆ Maybe as a backslider you need to come home to Him this evening and rededicate your life and renew your vows to him.

May we stand and sing...

Invitation Hymn: (Old) # 362 – *"I Am Thine O Lord"* at least 2 or 3 Vv.

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- ◆ Preached again 8/8/02 W. Chapel-Revival, New Market, VA.
- ◆ Preached again 8/11/02 CBC-A.M.
- ◆ Preached again 11-30-08 OBC-A.M.
- ◆ Preached again 4-17-24 WHBC-Wed.