

PAUL'S I AM'S
(Romans 1:14-16)

I. I am debtor (vs. 14).

- A. To be a debtor is to be one who owe's someone something.
 - 1. The idea of the tense of this word indicates one who is obligated to do something.
 - 2. Paul believed that he was obligated to preach the gospel.
 - 3. Notice what he wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 9:16).
- B. Paul was in debt to Jesus for what He had done for him.
 - 1. Here was a man that put to death those that wore the name of Christ.
 - 2. Still, that same Christ died for Paul, introduced Himself to Paul, gave Paul the opportunity to hear the gospel by directing him to Ananias and then placed him in the role of an apostle.
 - 3. Paul realized that he owed Jesus his spiritual life and felt obligated to give effort toward paying off that debt while realizing full payment could never be met.
- C. He was also indebted to preach because of the knowledge of God's word that he had.
 - 1. Could you imagine someone developing a cure for cancer and then keeping it to himself?
 - 2. That person would be morally obligated to share it with all mankind and we would be outraged if we found out someone withheld that kind of knowledge.
 - 3. We are outraged by what we have heard that went on at Penn State because people did not fulfill their moral obligation to share what they knew.
 - 4. Paul was obligated to share the knowledge of Jesus that he had with all men.
 - 5. For this reason he said he was indebted to:
 - a. The Greeks - the cultured of the world;
 - b. The barbarians - the ignorant of the world;
 - c. The wise - the studied of the world;
 - d. The unwise - the unlearned of the world.
 - 6. Paul felt indebted to all men to teach them the gospel because he simply could not keep that type knowledge to himself.
- D. Each of us, as Christians, owe the same debt to Jesus because we were saved by His blood just as Paul was.
- E. Each of us, as Christians, owe the same debt to people today because we have the same knowledge of the gospel as Paul (Ephesians 3:1-4).
- F. Each of us needs to say and believe "I am a debtor."

II. I am ready (vs. 15).

- A. Notice that Paul said "as much as in me is."
 - 1. The level of indebtedness felt by Paul constrained him to use himself up to preach the gospel.

2. Every fiber of his being was used in preaching to the lost.
 3. He used all that he had for Jesus because Jesus had given all that He had for Paul.
- B. Paul was ready which indicates a willingness to go preach.
1. Paul was willing to “spend and be spent.”
 2. He wanted to go teach the lost and strengthen brethren.
- C. Paul was ready which indicates a preparedness to go preach.
1. Paul had a knowledge of God’s word.
 2. Some might say that it was all miraculous.
 3. While knowledge was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit as we noticed in Ephesians 3, he was still a student of God’s word (2 Timothy 4:13).
- D. What Paul was ready to do was preach the gospel.
1. Paul was not going to preach anything else to them.
 2. He simply preached the gospel of Christ to lost and dying men.
- E. You and I, as Christians, ought to be able to say we are ready to preach the gospel.
1. We need to be willing to do so.
 2. We need to be prepared to do so.
 3. I don’t mean simply from a pulpit, but able to teach others what we did to become Christians.
 4. Teach nothing but the gospel plan of salvation and the doctrine of Christ.
- F. Each of us needs to say and believe “I am ready.”

III. I am not ashamed (vs. 16).

- A. Paul was not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ though it differed from all the religious teaching of the day.
1. It went against Judaism in that it replaced the Old Law, with it being fulfilled by Jesus.
 2. It went against paganism in that it was monotheistic.
 3. It also taught that deity came to earth and died for mankind so that man could be saved which was far different.
 4. The doctrine of Christ that Paul preached stressed the concept of a resurrection of the dead.
 5. We see that Paul was mocked for this while teaching in Athens on Mars Hill (Acts 17:32).
- B. Paul never stopped preaching because of what people thought about that which he preached.
1. The Greeks felt it was foolishness and it was a stumbling block to the Jews (1 Corinthians 1:23).
 2. Paul preached before royalty, well-educated men and even those in Caesar’s household.
- C. The reason for his being unashamed is that he knew the gospel was God’s avenue of getting the saving message of Jesus to the world.
1. It was and is the only avenue for that message.
 2. It is God’s power to save mankind.

- D. Too many Christians are ashamed of various aspects of the gospel of Christ.
 - 1. We shun to tell people the bible doctrine of the one church that Jesus purchased with His blood.
 - 2. We squirm at having to tell people that instruments of music in worship is sinful.
 - 3. We get knocking knees when confronted with the possibility of having to tell someone what the gospel teaches about marriage, divorce and remarriage.
- E. One large reason for so much error existing in the church of Christ is the fact that numerous members are ashamed of the gospel.
- F. Paul was not ashamed of the gospel and we must not be either.
- G. We have to be able to say and believe, "I am not ashamed."