

NEVER ASHAMED
Romans 1:14-17

INTRODUCTION

- A. In Paul's introduction of the letter to the Romans, he shares three reasons for his reason in preaching the gospel of Christ.
- B. These three reasons should play an important role in our sharing of the gospel today.

I. I AM UNDER OBLIGATION... Verse 14

- A. Obligation.
 - 1. Debtor [KJV]. Owing something to another.
 - 2. Larry gives me \$1000 to give to Brad.
 - a. I am in debt to Brad, until I pass on what belongs to Brad.
 - b. I am obligated to give to Brad, because what I have is not my own.
- B. Indebtedness to God.
 - 1. The Israelites indebted to God.
 - a. Deuteronomy 4:32-40; 6-11; 32:6
 - b. Why? Because of His blessings. Psalm 116:12-14
 - 2. Jesus had saved Paul [all of us].
 - a. Romans 5:6-10
 - b. Chief of sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15
 - c. Thanks be to God..., Romans 7:24-25.
 - d. He paid a debt He did not owe, I owed a debt I could not pay. Christ Jesus paid the debt that I could never pay. (376)
 - e. Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let Thy goodness like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to Thee; Never let me wander from Thee, never leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal lit, seal it for Thy courts above. (#226)
 - 3. Jesus had entrusted to Paul the gospel.
 - a. He would teach the Gentiles. Acts 9:15-16
 - b. Paul was saved so as to save others.
 - c. We, too, are saved to save others. Matthew 28:19-20
 - 4. 1 Corinthians 9:16, "*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.*"

II. I AM EAGER... Verse 15

- A. What It Means To Be Eager.
 - 1. Zealous, ready, and willing,
 - a. Example of Bereans, Acts 17:11 – eagerness, examining daily...
 - b. 2 Corinthians 8:11, readiness to desire it,...also the completion...
 - 2. But one can be ready and prepared, yet not eager to do.
- B. Why So Eager?
 - 1. "Thus" [So] reflects on verse 14.
 - a. Because I am a debtor to Jesus Christ...
 - b. I am eager to preach...
 - 3. Saving souls – preaching the gospel (to evangelize).

- a. 2 Timothy 4:2, preach...in season and out...
- b. *“God wants a restless, sleepless earnestness, which struggles on with the Master’s work in spite of bodily weakness and discouragement, in face of dangers and the bitterest opposition.”* Spence (B. Coffman Commentary)
- c. John 9:4, *“We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work.”*

III. I AM NOT ASHAMED... Verse 16

- A. The embarrassment of the cross.
 - 1. Roman use of the cross brought shame, weakness.
 - 2. Lord, Savior, Messiah hung on the cross.
 - 3. 1 Cor. 1:23 – it didn’t make sense to many.
 - 4. *“On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me;”* (#313)
- B. The Problem of Shame.
 - 1. Ashamed defined is the feeling of fear or shame preventing one from doing.
 - 2. Philippians 1:20
 - 3. Not ashamed of our teaching of a cappella music, the Lord’s Supper every week, baptism for salvation, and the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - 4. 2 Timothy 1:7-8
- C. Gospel – Good News.
 - 1. In everyday conversation, the word translated “gospel” was considered “good news”.
 - 2. In the New Testament – exclusively used as “good news” from God.
 - a. Mark 1:1, *“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”*
 - b. Matthew 4:23, *“And Jesus was going about in all Galilee,...proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom,...”*
 - 3. Christ died for our sins.
 - a. The gospel is the Lord’s love story for us, which we freely share.
 - b. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
 - c. 1 John 4:19, *“We love because He first loved us.”*

CLOSING

- A. You are indebted to the love of God.
- B. But are you eager to serve Him?
- C. And are you proud to be teaching the gospel of Christ, or are you ashamed?