

## The “I Am’s” Of Paul

Romans 1:14-16

### “I Am ...”

#### Debtor

- Paul felt he had a debt that he owed to all men – the proclamation of the gospel
- Colossians 1:21-23 – “... I, Paul, became a minister” (*διάκονος*)
  - cf. Matthew 20:26-28 – “... the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve”
- II Timothy 4:6-8 – “I have fought the good fight”

### “I Am ...”

#### Ready To Preach The Gospel

- Philippians 3:13-14 – “... one thing I do”
- II Corinthians 12:15 – “I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls”
- Acts 21:13 – “For I am ready ...”
- He was ready in any circumstance
  - Philippians 3:8-15 – “I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord”

### “I Am ...”

#### Not Ashamed Of The Gospel

- Acts 17:16-31 – “this I proclaim to you”
- Acts 20:26-27 – “... I did not shrink from declaring ...”
- Before the Sanhedrin court, Felix, Festus, and Agrippa – Acts 21-26
- II Timothy 1:8 – “share in suffering for the gospel”
- II Timothy 1:12-14 – “But I am not ashamed”

### Application to Us

- Paul was “set apart for the gospel of God” (Romans 1:1)
- Paul tells us to “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (I Corinthians 11:1)
- We, then, must voluntarily submit our abilities to God
  - II Peter 1:1-4 – “... his precious and exceeding great promises”
  - Acts 8:4 – “... went about preaching the word”
  - I Timothy 4:15 – “devote yourself to them”

### We Are Debtors

- We must have the same feeling of responsibility that Paul had
  - Romans 9:1-3 – “... I could wish that I myself were accursed ...”
- Acts 10:34-35 – “So Peter opened his mouth and said ...”
- James 2:1 – “show no partiality ...”
- II Timothy 2:2 – “... entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also”

## ➔ We Must Be Ready

- See the examples of Jeremiah and Isaiah
  - Jeremiah 20:9 – “there is in my heart as it were a burning fire ...”
  - Isaiah 6:8 – “Here am I! Send me”
- **To learn** – II Peter 3:18 – “... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord ...”
- **To teach** – Hebrews 5:12 – “... you ought to be teachers”
- **To fail** – II Timothy 4:1-4 – “... people will not endure sound teaching”

## ➔ We Must Not Be Ashamed

- II Timothy 1:7-8 – “... God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power ...”
- Acts 20:20-21 – “... I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable”
- I Peter 4:16 – “... let him glorify God in that name”
- An admonition – Isaiah 30:9-11 – “speak to us smooth things”
- Acts 20:27 – “... declaring to you the whole counsel of God”

## ➔ Obeying The Gospel

### Hear the Word of God

- James 1:21 – “Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

### Believe the Gospel message about Jesus

- I John 3:23-24 – “And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ ...”

## ➔ Obeying The Gospel

### Repent of your sins

- Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”

### Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- Romans 10:9-10 – “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved”

## ➔ Obeying The Gospel

### Be immersed in water

- Acts 2:38 – “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

### Remain faithful

- I Corinthians 15:1-2 – “Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand and by which you are being saved if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed in vain”