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## A CHRISTIAN OBLIGATION

Romans 1:14-16: *"I am a debtor both to Greeks and barbarians, both to wise and unintelligent. So, for my part, I am eager to preach the good news to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."*

Three times in Romans 1:14-16, the Apostle Paul uses the words **"I am,"** and each time carries an important message for every true believer in Christ.

### **1. I am a debtor**

He says in verse 14: *"I AM A DEBTOR"* – debtor to all men, to tell them about the saving work of Christ.

But why was *he* indebted to people he had never even seen?

For several reasons:

### **1.1. He knew the answer how to be saved from the penalty and power of sin.**

He had in his hand what they needed to be saved from the penalty and power of sin. If I see a drunkard lying across the railroad track and I do nothing about it, am I not a murderer if he is killed by the train? If I see a man drowning and I have a life buoy in my hand but do not throw it to him, am I not a murderer if he goes down for the last time? If I see millions of lost souls about me and, knowing the message of salvation, do not tell them, am I not guilty if they die without Christ?

### **1.2. He knew that the Christ who had died for his sins has also died for the sins of others.**

Further, Paul felt himself a debtor to others, because the Christ who had died for his sins has **also** died for the sins of others. As he says in 2 Corinthians 5:15: *"... and He (Christ) died for all, that they who live should no longer live to themselves, but to Him Who died for them and has been raised."*

### **1.3. He knew that the Christ who had died for his sins, had commissioned him to tell others of His saving grace.**

Finally, the Christ who had died for Paul's sins had **commissioned** him to tell others of His saving grace. Thus he says in 1 Corinthians 9:16,17: *"...for it is woe to me if I should not announce the glad tidings. For ... I am entrusted with an administration."*

## 2. I am eager

Paul could say further what every true believer should be able to say: Not, “I am a debtor, *but*,” but rather, “I am a debtor ... SO, for my part, I AM EAGER” (Romans 1:15). He was eager to discharge his debt because he had that with which to discharge it — the wonderful “gospel of the grace of God.” And he did indeed make this message known to others with all that was in him.

## 3. I am not ashamed

And now the third “I am”: I am a debtor ... so, ... I am eager ... *For I AM NOT ASHAMED of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,...*” (verse 16).

So we see that the Apostle Paul was always proud to own Christ as the mighty Saviour from sin. And he instructs us in 1 Corinthians 11:1 to be imitators of him: *“Be my imitators, even as I also [am] of Christ.”*

How about you?

Do you know Christ as **your** personal Saviour from hades (the present hell)?

And if you do, do you tell others about Him?

(Source: 'Two Minutes with the Bible, August 10th' by C.R. Stam)