

Paul's Three I Ams

Int.

1. Aim: To describe three of the outstanding characteristics of Paul which every Christian should have.
2. Text - Romans 1:14-16 "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. 15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. 16 ¶ For 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."
3. Brief review of Paul's life
 - a. Persecuted the church - stoning of Stephen, prison, Acts 7, 8, 9
 - b. Converted - Ananias - Acts 9
 - c. Became an Apostle - II Cor. 11:5 - Not a whit behind the chiefest Apostle
 - d. Missionary Journey's - 3 - converted many - Acts 13
 - e. Wrote letters to churches - 13 or 14
4. He became a good soldier of Jesus Christ. "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." 1 Cor. 11:1
5. Let us notice 3 things about his life in which we should follow Him.

Discussion

I. I AM A DEBTOR Rom. 1:14 "I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise."

A. To whom ?

1. Greeks = educated, fancied themselves as having a monopoly on wisdom [knowledge]
 - called anyone who did not speak Greek a barbarian
2. Barbarians = uneducated, did not speak Greek
3. Wise = philosophers, about the same as the "Greeks"
4. Unwise = simple minded, unlearned, about the same as the "barbarians"
5. Paul declares in Rom. 11:13 "For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:"
6. The gospel is for all people, because Christ gave himself as a ransom for all, and tasted death for every man. Heb. 2:9b "that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." 1 Tim. 2:6 "Who gave himself a ransom for all, ..."

B. Why was Paul indebted to others?

1. It was not anything they had done for him.
2. It was what God had done for him and them.
3. Christ had died for Paul, appeared to him, saved his soul from sin, commissioned him as an apostle, and made an heir of everlasting life.
4. He wanted to show his gratitude to God by taking the gospel to others.
5. He said: "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel." 1 Cor. 9:16

C. Application

1. Was Paul under any obligation that the rest of us are not under?
2. No ! We are all debtors.
3. To whom? All the world - wise and unwise, poor and rich, black and white = ALL
4. Why? The same reason as Paul - because of what God has done for us.
5. Did Paul have a greater debt than we do? NO.
6. Christ died for me, saved my soul from sin, and made me an heir of everlasting life.
7. I have been saved to save others.
8. "Go ye therefore and teach all people in the CSRA area of the world."

Matt. 28:19

II. **I AM READY TO PREACH THE GOSPEL** - Rom. 1:15 "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also"

A. Ready

1. Willing - all he lacked was the opportunity
2. He was anxious to preach to them in payment of his debt.
 - a. Acts 19:21 "After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome."
 - b. Acts 23:11 "And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome."
3. There was eagerness in his mind - I am ready, prepared to teach

B. To you at Rome - he had already preached to many others

1. Rome was the capitol of the world
2. It was a place of riches and pomp, and glory and pride.
3. The gentle teachings of Christ would be despised. A religion that demanded self-denial would likely be met with derision.
4. Rom. 1:11 "For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;"
5. Paul wanted them to hear the gospel and obey it, because he believed in what he was doing. He was interested in their soul.

C. Application

1. Are we ready to preach the gospel to our fellow man?
2. Be ready to preach and teach every person
 - a. 1 Pet. 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:" Be ready to teach anyone the gospel.
 - b. Pick out some individual - pray for opportunity to teach them
3. Show an interest in the souls of others
4. You cannot wait until the world is ready!
 - a. You cannot wait until someone brings up the subject, or asked to be baptized.
 - b. You certainly cannot wait until after your friend or neighbor has died.
 - c. We should be ready now to preach the gospel. "Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season," (2 Tim. 4:2).
5. Be like Paul - all he lacked was the opportunity, and he would be ready.

III. I AM NOT ASHAMED Rom. 1:16 "For 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."

A. I am not ashamed

1. Feeling of shame arising from something that has been done, to feel disgraced, inferior or unworthy, to be humiliated.
2. Paul had suffered much for the gospel yet he was unashamed
 - a. II Cor. 11:23-27
 - b. Cast out of his own nation
 - c. Imprisoned at Phillipi, chased out of Thessalonica, smuggled out of Berea
 - d. Stoned at Lystra, mocked at Athens by the philosophers.
 - e. Mobbed at Ephesus by a crowd trying to kill him
 - f. His life had become a living death for the gospel's sake.
3. Yet in all of these difficulties Paul stood firm and was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ - "For this reason 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 what I have committed to Him until that Day." 2 Tim. 1:12 NKJV

B. Why was Paul not ashamed of the Gospel ?

1. God is the source of the gospel
 - a. Powerful means appointed by God for the salvation of all
 - b. Them of Romans: Gospel is Power of God unto Salvation.
2. Christ is the subject of the Gospel = Life, D. B. R.
3. Holy Spirit is the revealer - guide into all truth

4. Highest way of life is its philosophy - John 10:10 abundant living
5. Heaven is its final goal.

C. Application

1. No one should be ashamed of trying to go to Heaven !
2. Some are ashamed:
 - a. Ashamed for people to know that they are a Christian.
 - b. Ashamed to pray
 - c. Ashamed to carry their Bible to church and read it
 - d. Ashamed to discuss religion
 - e. Ashamed to talk about their soul's salvation
 - f. Ashamed to be faithful in daily life - someone might say you're try to be to good - you are a fanatic
 - g. Ashamed to attend all the services of the church. You might make the leaders think you are interested and you might have to work if you keep it up.
3. Mark 8:38NKJV "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."
4. Paul was not ashamed of the gospel, neither should we be.

CONCLUSION

1. Can we like Paul say I Am:
 - a. A debtor
 - b. Ready to preach the gospel to the lost
 - c. Not ashamed of the Gospel

2. If not then you need to change your life
 - a. Become a Christian
 - i. Believe - Mark 16:16
 - ii. Repent - Acts 2:38
 - iii. Confess - Matt. 10:32-33
 - iv. Be baptized - Acts 2:38
 - b. Be restored if you have fallen away = Repent Confess Pray
 - c. Become active in the church

3. All who can say these three things can say what Paul said later near the end of his life.

“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” 11 Tim. 4:6-8

4. Are you ready ?