

## “I Am Ready to Preach the Gospel”

Romans 1:15, “So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.”

*Introduction:* A key mission of the church is to “preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). This message was not first delivered to a person, but to a people. In the Limited Commission, Jesus sent out 70 men, “two by two”, to go preach to the people of Israel the Messiah had come (Luke 10:1). In the Great Commission, Jesus sent out His twelve apostles to “go into all the world” (Mark 16:15). Even as the book of Acts records the work and journeys of various apostles, they are rarely found alone. More times than not, the apostles themselves are working side by side others in their work. And, as long as there is a world, there will still be work for the disciples of Jesus to do in sharing the gospel message with a lost world.

Today, I’d like to take some time with you to consider one of the most well-traveled apostles of the Bible—Paul—as we learn from the man who could say “I am ready to preach the gospel!”

### I. Paul, The Person: “I Am”

- A. Paul, quite often, makes it clear he was born and raised a devout Jew (Philippians 3:4-7; Acts 22:1-3).
- B. Yet, being raised in a Syrian city he was also familiar with the Gentile mind and could easily converse with kings and rulers (Acts 22:25-28; 17:28; 9:15-16; 25:11-12).
- C. For this reason, he could say he was truly ready to preach to both “Jew and Greek” (Romans 1:16; cp. Ephesians 2:11-18).
- D. His background prepared him to serve as God’s unique vessel to bridge the divide between the Jewish and Gentile minds. God can use your history to serve His purposes in the future.

### II. Paul’s Charge: “Preach the Gospel”

- A. The Source (Galatians 1:11-12; Romans 1:1, 16, 17)
- B. The Subject (Romans 1:3-4)
  - 1. Jesus’ coming (Matthew 1:20-23)
  - 2. Jesus’ going (John 14:1)
  - 3. His DBR (1 Cor 15:1-8)
- C. The Purpose (Romans 1:5; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47)

### III. Paul’s Attitude: “Ready”

- A. Paul uses three phrases in Romans 1 which indicate his attitude toward preaching.

1. "I am debtor" (Romans 1:14)
2. "I am ready" (Romans 1:15).
3. "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ" (Romans 1:16; cp. 2 Timothy 1:12).

B. How is your attitude toward preaching, supporting, hearing and inviting others to hear the gospel?

#### IV. Practical Lessons From Paul

- A. Pay it forward. Paul said "*I am debtor*" (1:14). He felt indebted to God. Our sin was a debt we could never repay, but it can be shared with others (Acts 10:34-35; 2 Timothy 4:2)!
- B. Be ready. Paul said "*I am ready*" (1:15). He was always prepared was always planning his next prospect, prepare yourself to share the Word (1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:15, 23-26).
- C. Be bold. Paul said, "*I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ*" (Romans 1:16). When you are unashamed, you are bold and fearless (2 Timothy 1:7; 3:12-14; Acts 20:20, 27).

Conclusion: Paul touched lives everywhere he went. He won souls. He started churches. His dedication to the cause could never be called into question. What about you? Life is short. Death is sure. Sin's the cause and God's the cure. There are souls to be saved. There are battles to be won. Jesus Christ can lead us to healing and victory. Yet, we must put our faith in Him and lead the lost world to His throne. Have you submitted to King Jesus? If not, we pray your response today is not "I am ready to preach the gospel" but "I am ready to obey the gospel."