

Romans 1:13-16 *Now I would not have you [the Christians in Rome] ignorant [uninformed], brethren, that oftentimes I purposed [that many times I had made plans] to come unto you, but was let hitherto [but it could not be arranged], that I [the Apostle Paul] might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles. ¹⁴ I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians [non-Greeks]; both to the wise, and to the unwise [both to the educated and the uneducated]. ¹⁵ So, as much as in me is [So, with the the deepest desire within me], 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 everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

I. Introduction "...that I might have some fruit among you..." (verse 13)

A. Paul's compelling reason

1. Paul's purpose: to have spiritual fruit among the Romans (to see people in Rome receive Christ as their Savior)
2. Example of farmer and fruit
 - a. A farmer buys, stores, and maintains farm equipment for the purpose of growing crops (bearing fruit), not to have the farm equipment as possessions
 - b. Purpose of farm is to produce fruit, such as growing crops or farm animals or animal products (milk, eggs, etc.)
3. The fruit of Christians and the local church
 - a. Not merely to have buildings on church property
 - b. Purpose to have the spiritual fruit of newly saved Christians & growing Christians

Psalm 1:2-3 ² *But his [the man who does not walk, stand, or sit with the ungodly, sinners, or the scornful] delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, **that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.***
 - c. Teach Christians to have desire to share the gospel of Christ
4. Purpose of all preaching: to bear spiritual fruit

John 15:8 *Herein is my [Jesus'] Father glorified, that ye [disciples] bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

B. Paul's preaching

1. Paul desired that the Philippian church have spiritual fruit put on their account in heaven from their support of him

Philippians 4:16-17 ¹⁶ *For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity* [you sent often the things I needed]. ¹⁷ *Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.*

2. Paul desired the eternal fruit of saved lives

Romans 16:5 *Likewise greet the church that is in their* [Priscilla and Aquila] *house. Salute my well beloved Epaphroditus, who is the first fruits of Achaia* [southern Greece] **unto Christ.**

3. Purpose of all missionary's works are people saved through the gospel of Christ

C. Easter is a special season to celebrate the death, burial, & resurrection of Jesus Christ

II. Our Responsibility in Fruit Bearing "...I am debtor...both to the wise and the unwise..." (verse 14) []

A. Personal Responsibility

1. Paul a debtor

- a. Debtor to preach the gospel
- b. He felt a moral obligation to all people he met
- c. Based on Paul's blessings as Christian
- d. He felt that he owed others hearing the gospel

2. All Christians debtors with Paul

- a. Not everyone has knowledge of God

1 Corinthians 15:34 *Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.*

- b. Our "Jerusalem" is Lancaster & Palmdale (see Acts 1:8)

B. Global Responsibility

1. Gospel not limited to one ethnic or cultural group

- a. In Paul's day, early church were all Jews who reached the Gentile world
- b. Today, Christians not limited to one language group or area of the world

2. Preaching indebtedness to all people

- a. Paul also preached to Greeks (civilized) & to barbarians (foreigners), to the wise and to the unwise, to the free and to slaves, to the wealthy and to the poor, to the mighty and to the powerless

1 Corinthians 1:27 *But **God hath chosen** the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and **God hath chosen** the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;*

- b. Today, Christians are to go to all, whatever their condition
- c. Everyone deserves to hear the gospel

Mark 16:15 *And he [Jesus] said unto them [the disciples], "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."*

III. Our Response in Fruit Bearing (verse 15) []

A. Paul's Spirit

1. He had spirit of evangelism

- a. He had sense of urgency to preach the gospel to the unsaved
- b. He saw that people still need the Lord

2. Christian church today

- a. Typical view tends toward current social attitudes

- i. Apathy (view the unsaved as personally responsible to learn the gospel)
- ii. Anger (view the unsaved as universally angry at Christians who try to witness)
- iii. Social issues (view the unsaved as rejecting them instead of rejecting the Savior they are trying to share)

- b. But God has given the Christian a different spirit

2 Timothy 1:7 ***For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.***

B. Paul's Preparedness

1. He prepared his heart

2. He was ready to preach the gospel, verse 15

3. Christians can follow Peter's example to have a ready answer of hope

1 Peter 3:15 *But sanctify the Lord God [But set aside a special place for 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:***

IV. Our Resource in Fruit Bearing "...it is **the power of God** unto salvation to everyone that believeth ..." (verse 16)

A. Pure Resource

1. God's gospel in its purist form: the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 ³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins** according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that **he was buried**, and that **he rose again the third day** according to the scriptures:

2. Salvation is God's free gift of grace (not by human work)

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸ For by grace are ye [all Christians] saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God**: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

3. Only true justice is found in Jesus Christ paying the price for our sin

B. Powerful Resource []

1. The Greek (original language) word for "power"

- a. Greek word 'dynamis'
- b. English translates this word as dynamite

2. Gospel is the power of Christian ministry

3. God has given Christian the powerful witness

Acts 1:8 *But ye [Jesus' disciples] shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem [your home city], and in all Judaea [your home country], and in Samaria [your neighboring countries], and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

4. Gospel is God's power to salvation

1 Corinthians 1:18 *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish [to the unsaved] foolishness; **but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.***

5. Human condition & salvation

- a. All people fall short of God's glory

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

- b. Jesus makes Christian in right standing before God

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For He [God the Father] made Him [Jesus, God the Son] who knew no sin to be sin for us [every Christian], that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***

Romans 3:24 *Being justified freely by his [God's] grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

c. Jesus paid the price for everyone's sins

Romans 3:25 [Talking about Jesus from verse 24 (above)] *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation* [the payment of one person's debt by another person] *through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance* [the tolerance of a person's sin by God because He knows that the debt will eventually be paid in full by Christ] *of God;*

d. God is just & righteous, & God made the provision for Christians to stand guilt free before Him

Romans 3:26 *To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just* [because the debt has been paid], *and the justifier* [because He paid the debt Himself] *of him which believeth in Jesus.*

6. At the cross, God's justice is shown by the death of Jesus for the debt we should pay ourselves

7. At the cross, God's love is shown by the death of Jesus for the debt we should pay ourselves

V. Conclusion []

A. Christians are debtors

1. Debtors to family and relatives
2. Debtors to neighbors and friends
3. Debtors to local community

B. There is no fruit where there is no seed. We need to plant the seed of God's Word and allow God to make it grow in people's lives

C. Gospel plants the seed for any person to be saved

1. Every Christian plants a seed or waters a seed when he shares God's Word

1 Corinthians 3:6 *I [Paul] have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.*

2. Remember, that only God gives the increase to salvation

1 Corinthians 3:7 *So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth* [So neither the person that planted the seed nor the person who waters the seed can make the seed grow]; *but God that giveth the increase* [but only God can make the seed grow into a plant, or God's Word grow in a person's heart].

3. All Christians are in same ministry together

1 Corinthians 3:8 *Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one* [are united in their purpose]: *and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.*

D. God gives work of reconciliation to Christian

1. Ministry of reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:18 *And all things are of **God**, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and **hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation**;*

2. Word of reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:19 *To wit, that [Meaning that] God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them [not holding the punishment for their own sins in reserve]; and **hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation**.*