

A MINDSET FOR MISSIONS

Rom. 1:10-17

God's "heartbeat" is missions. God Son was a Missionary.

The Bible is a record of missions—From the calling out of Abraham... the command to Israel to be a nation of priests and be a light to the Gentiles... to the commission of the church... to the 144,000 missionaries in the Tribulation period. The overall message of the Bible is God's desire to save man (2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 1:12).

2. Paul had the answer of salvation from hell. That “good news” needed to be proclaimed to all who were on the road to hell. To withhold the message is the most inexcusable and criminal act in all of human history.

- If you knew a bridge was out, you would be indebted to warn people traveling on that road.
- If someone had a cure for cancer, he would be indebted to share that with the whole world.
- Bloodguiltiness (Acts 18:5-6; 20:26-27, 31 cf. Ezek. 3:17-19; Col. 1:27-28)

B. The RANGE of our debt (v. 14). We owe the gospel to... all nationalities and cultures — near and far — home and abroad.

To all the peoples of the earth whether...

- ...civilized or uncivilized,
- ...industrialized or primitive,
- ...rich or poor,
- ...educated and uneducated,
- ...religious or nonreligious
- ...seeking and the complacent.

C. I hear Christians say, “I pay my honest debts.” Do you? Not until you’ve done all you can to give *every person* the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus.

➔Are you fulfilling your obligation to spread the Gospel?

III. The DEDICATION to missions (vs. 15-16). Paul admitted his debt, now he was ready to pay up. He was **wholly dedicated to missions**.

➔“**as much as in me is.**” Paul would put all that was in him into reaching the lost—all his energy and effort, all his talents and resources — There was nothing that could keep him from sharing the gospel. THAT’S DEDICATION.

There a lot of dedicated people around here.

- Dedicated to their family.
- Dedicated to their friends.
- Dedicated to their career.
- Dedicated to their house.
- Dedicated to a hobby.
- Dedicated to music.
- Dedicated to politics or a political party.
- Dedicated to recreation.
- Dedicated to fashions.
- Dedicated to sports — Seahawks.

- A. A dedicated person...
1. Likes what he or she is dedicated to
 2. Believes in what he or she is dedicated to
 3. Persists at doing what he or she is dedicated to
 4. Spends time doing what he or she is dedicated to
 5. Talks about what he or she is dedicated to
- B. Paul was dedicated to missions. It showed in two ways.
1. Paul was *eager* to tell. READY!
 2. Paul was *unashamed* to tell.

On one occasion Frederick the Great invited some notable people to his royal table, including his top-ranking generals. One of them by the name of Hans von Zieten declined the invitation because he wanted to attend a church service.

Some time later at another banquet Frederick and his guests mocked the general for his religious dedication and made jokes about the Lord's Supper.

In great peril of his life, the von Zieten stood to his feet and said respectfully to the monarch, "My lord, there is a greater King than you, a King to whom I have sworn allegiance even unto death. I am a Christian man, and I cannot sit quietly as the Lord's name is dishonored... His character belittled... and His cause subjected to ridicule. With your permission I shall take my leave."

The other generals trembled in silence, knowing that von Zieten might be condemned to death. But to their surprise, Frederick grasped the hand of this courageous man, asked his forgiveness, and promised he would never again allow such a travesty to be made of sacred things.

IV. The **DYNAMICS** of missions (v. 16). The power of missions is the gospel.

➔ The Greek word translated "power" is *dunamis*, from which we get our word *dynamite*. It is *dunamis* power! When you share the Gospel, you have the dynamite of God on your lips. (Cf. 1 Cor. 1:18; 2:1-5).

- A. The **PURPOSE** of the gospel— "*salvation*"
- B. The **PEOPLE** of the gospel— "*to every one*"

"*To the Jew FIRST...*" — Dispensationally speaking (see Mt. 15:24; Mk.7:27; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8; 13:46). In the dispensation we live, **NO ONE IS FIRST**. The Gospel is for **ALL** (Rom. 10:12-13).

- C. The **PLAN** of the gospel — "*BELIEVETH*."

1. A drunken lawyer was witnessed to by a friend and got saved. That drunken lawyer was C.I. Scofield who went on to be the editor of the Scofield Reference Bible.
2. A shoe salesman was won to Christ by his Sunday School teacher. The shoe salesman went on to become one of the world's greatest evangelists, Dwight L. Moody.

SUMMATION: Paul uses the phrase “*I AM*” three times:

- I am *debtor*... —that is **admission**
- I am *ready*... —that is **remission**
- I am *not ashamed*... —that is **submission**.

These are the three “missions” of Paul: admission, remission, and submission.

1. QUESTION: What is the most important thing you’ve ever done in your life? Accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior! Getting saved!
2. QUESTION: If getting saved was the most important thing you’ve ever done in your life, what is the most important thing you could ever do for someone else?
3. QUESTION: If everybody witnessed like you, would you be saved?

➡ The question is not, “Will the heathen be saved, if we do not send them the gospel?” but, “Are we saved ourselves if we do not send them the gospel?”