

## I am a debtor

**Romans 1:14-17: NIV 14 I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. 15** That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome. **16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. **17** For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

v14. obligated= Gk ὀφειλέτης ophēiletēs "one who owes anything to another," primarily in regard to money; in [Mat 18:24](#), "who owed" (lit., "one was brought, a debtor to him of ten thousand talents"). The slave could own property, and so become a "debtor" to his master, who might seize him for payment. (Vine's Dictionary)

Paul believed that he owe the Gospel to the Lost regardless of their background Greek or barbarians; wise or unwise.

We will highlight 3 areas of Paul's life where he was motivated primarily by the sense of debt and owning the Gospel to the Lost.

### **1- In his prayer life:**

**Acts 9:11** The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.

**Acts 20:31** In Ephesus “Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

**Romans 10:1**“ Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved”

**Galatians 4:19** “My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you”  
The 1st time Paul labored in birth for the Galatians was for their salvation.

Paul usually using “birthing” for leading people into salvation Philemon 10 “I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten *while* in my chains” 1 Cor 4:14 “For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel”

### **2- In his zeal for the lost:**

**Rom 9:1-5** “I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom *pertain* the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service *of God*, and the promises; of whom *are* the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ *came*, who is over all, *the* eternally blessed God. Amen.”

**1 Cor 9:16-17** “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship”

**1 Cor 9:19-22** “ For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the law, that I might win those *who are* under the law; to those *who are* without law, as without law (not being without law toward God,<sup>[d]</sup> but under law toward Christ<sup>[e]</sup>), that I might win those *who are* without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some”

**Acts 17:17** in Athens “Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there”

### **3- In enduring persecution:**

**2 Cor 11:23-29**“ Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I *am* more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. **24** From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. **25** Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; **26** *in* journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; **27** in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness— **28** besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. **29** Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn *with indignation*?

**2 Tim 2:8-10** “Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, **9** for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, *even* to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. **10** Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.