

Paying Our Gospel Debts

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Introduction:

- A. Rom. 1:14-16
- B. A world that tries to live without faith.
 - 1. The 1933 Chicago World's Fair had a model city of the future. There were no churches. The reason given is there would be no need for churches in the future.
 - 2. There was a city in LA, CA called Century City. There are no churches in it. It is a wasteland of office buildings and tenement housing
 - 3. Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) of 1996 was designed to protect individual rights in the practice of religion, actually gave local governments the right, if they found a "compelling reason," to restrict those rights, thus leading to communities that could by vote make their communities church-free zones
 - 4. Rudyard Kipling stated, "The human soul is a very lonely thing. We are born alone, we die alone, and in the depths of our souls we live alone."
 - 5. Those who have attempted to do so have created fertile environments for immorality and its attendant diseases, human exploitation, and individual despair
 - 6. Psalm 142:4 gives us a picture of the despairing loneliness of man.
- C. And yet our sad, godless culture shuns and denigrates the very God and gospel they so desperately need
 - 1. You who live in the sunshine of salvation take the gospel for granted. I know this because I not only live in it, I also work with the gospel every day, and I take it for granted
 - 2. We who take it for granted are in danger of losing it, because we will forget our gospel debt

I. OUR PERILOUS TIMES

- A. 2Tim. 3:1-5 - Perilous Times
 - 1. Unthankful - I did this on my own
 - 2. High minded - I am all sufficient in my self
 - 3. A form of godliness - actually self-righteousness
 - 4. Covetous - Develop relationships based on what they can get out of it
- B. Is it any wonder why so many are lonely?

II. THE GOSPEL ANSWER FOR PERILOUS TIMES

- A. Rom. 1:14-16 - The Gospel answer to the Romans
- B. Rom. 1:14 - A Debtor - connotes responsibility
 - 1. One who is held to an obligation or duty - The Great Commission
 - a. Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19
 - 2. One who owes someone - Christ - 2Cor. 5:14
 - 3. One who must satisfy others' obligations before their own
 - a. Matt. 16:24-26
 - 4. One who becomes a servant to the lender - Prov. 22:7

- C. Rom. 1:15 - A Ready person is willing, eager, and reliable
 - 1. Ready people seek opportunities to serve; they don't wait for it.
 - a. John 4:35
 - 2. Ready people are battle-prepared - Eph. 6:13-17
 - 3. Ready people know their purpose and act on it - Mark 5:19-20
- D. Rom. 1:16 - Un-ashamed and wholly reliant on the Gospel
 - 1. The power of God confuses the world - 1Cor. 1:18-25
 - 2. The power of God saves the lost - Acts 13:44-49
 - 3. The power of God is conditional - Acts 16:30-31, 8:36-37, 2:38

Conclusion:

- A. Rom. 13:7-10
 - 1. The Gospel puts us in debt to every human being. In order to pay this debt we must love one another.
 - 2. Our world is perilous because men love themselves.
 - 3. Our Gospel debt requires that we make payments of love to our fellow humankind.
 - 4. The Gospel, for us and those around us, removes the peril and replaces it with power.