



# Paying Our Gospel Debts

Romans 1:14-16

## Romans 1:14-16

- “I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. 15 So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”



# Paying Our Gospel Debts

- A world that tries to live without faith.
- A picture of the despairing loneliness of man.
  - Psalm 142:4 - “Look on my right hand and see, For there is no one who acknowledges me; Refuge has failed me; No one cares for my soul.”

# Our Perilous Times

- 2Tim. 3:1-5 - “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”

# Our Perilous Times

- Unthankful - I did this on my own
- High minded - I am all sufficient in my self
- A form of godliness - actually self-righteousness
- Covetous - Develop relationships based on what they can get out of it
- Is it any wonder why so many are lonely?  
Everyone is out for himself.



# The Gospel Answer For Perilous Times

- Rom. 1:14 - “I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.”
- *Debtor Connotes Responsibility*

# The Gospel Answer For Perilous Times

- One who is held to an obligation or duty
  - Mark 16:15 - “And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”
  - Matt. 28:19 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...”

# The Gospel Answer For Perilous Times

- One who owes another
  - 2Cor. 5:14 - “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died”

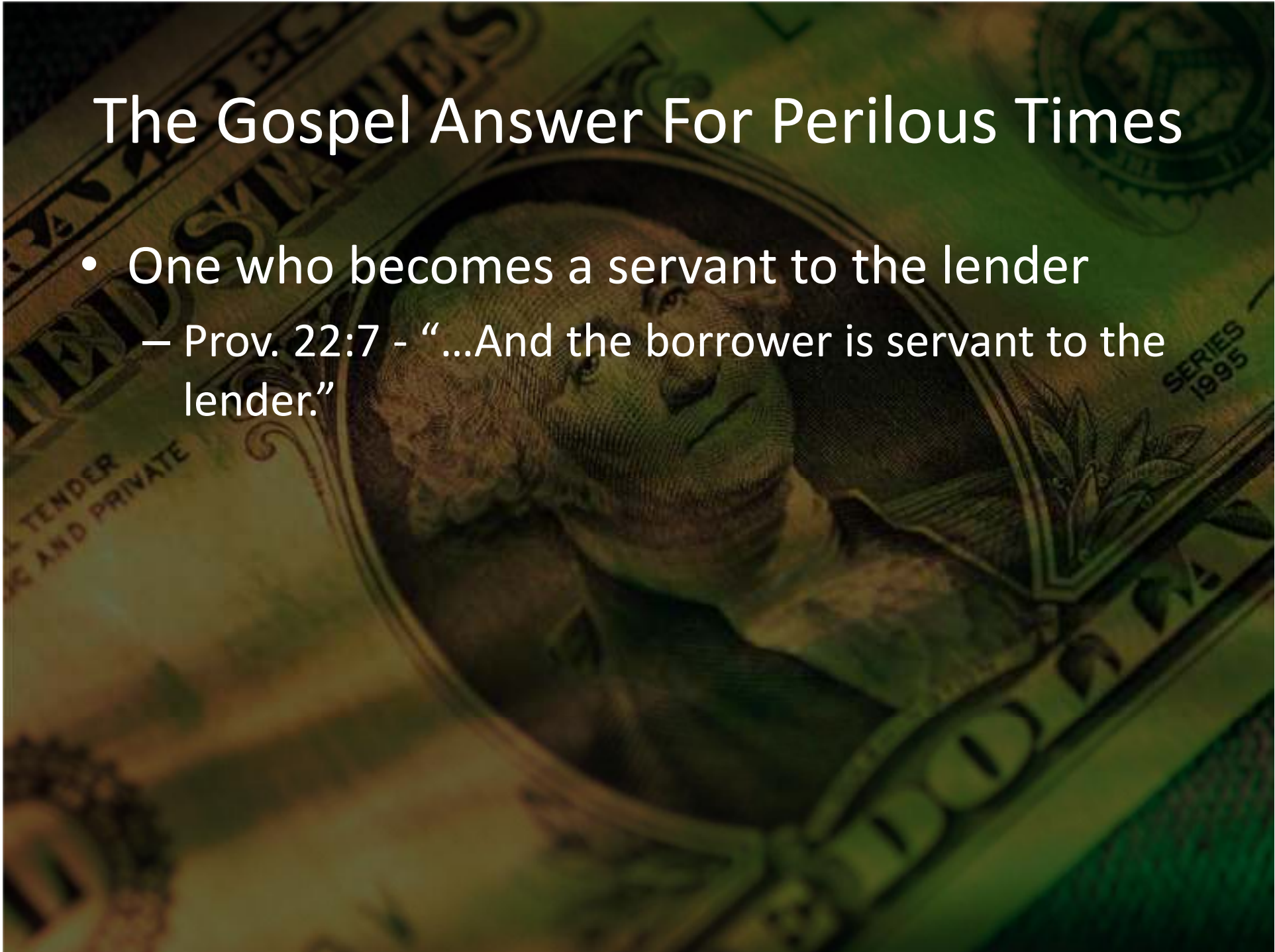


# The Gospel Answer For Perilous Times

- One who must satisfy others' obligations before their own
  - Matt. 16:24-26 - “Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

# The Gospel Answer For Perilous Times

- One who becomes a servant to the lender
  - Prov. 22:7 - “...And the borrower is servant to the lender.”



# The Gospel Answer For Perilous Times

- Rom. 1:15 - “So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.”
- *A Ready Person Is Willing, Eager, And Reliable*

# The Gospel Answer For Perilous Times

- Ready people seek opportunities to serve; they don't wait for it.
  - John 4:35 - “Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”

# The Gospel Answer For Perilous Times

- Ready people are battle-prepared
  - Eph. 6:13-17 - “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

# The Gospel Answer For Perilous Times

- Ready people know their purpose and act on it
  - Mark 5:19-20 - “However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you. 20 And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.”

# The Gospel Answer For Perilous Times

- Rom. 1:16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”
- *Un-ashamedly, wholly reliant on the Gospel*

# The Gospel Answer For Perilous Times

- The power of God confuses the world
  - 1Cor. 1:18-25 - “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”



# The Gospel Answer For Perilous Times

- The power of God saves the lost
  - Acts 13:44-49 - “On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. 45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. 46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.' 48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. 49 And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.”

# The Gospel Answer For Perilous Times

- The power of God is conditional
  - Acts 16:30-31 - “And he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 So they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

# The Gospel Answer For Perilous Times

- The power of God is conditional
  - Acts 8:36-37 - “Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized? 37 Then Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may.”

# The Gospel Answer For Perilous Times

- The power of God is conditional
  - Acts 2:37-38 - “Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

## Romans 13:7-10

- “Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. 8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

# Paying Our Gospel Debts

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