

The Gospel of God (Part Two)

“I Am under Obligation” Romans 1:8-15

Read Romans 1:8-15 several times.

1. Why is Paul thankful?
2. Who does Paul thank at the beginning of verse 8? Why is this significant? Do the Romans deserve any credit for their widespread testimony? Why or why not? (Refer to Matthew 16:18 and Philippians 2:13).
3. How does Paul’s example of praising God for the spiritual work that He is doing in the Romans lives provide a model for how you should react when you see others (and yourself) growing?
4. Read Matthew 5:16. Our good deeds and our obedience to Christ should be motivated by the single minded purpose to bring glory to God. We should not be motivated to somehow “pay God back” for what He did for us. We were created to glorify God and His grace makes it possible for fallen humans to do that. What is your main motivation for service? Is this a good motivation? Is this a wrong motivation? Who tends to usually get the glory for your good deeds?

10. How often does Paul pray for the Romans?

11. Was this situation unique, or was this his habitual practice for other believers? (Refer to Ephesians 1:16; Philippians 1:3-4; 1 Thessalonians 3:10).

12. Lest someone doubt that Paul is telling the truth here, he claims to have a witness. Who is Paul's witness?

13. Is praying "unceasingly" for others something which only a spiritual giant like Paul could accomplish, or is it something that should be expected of every Christian? Can you find a Bible verse to support your answer?

14. What practically does it mean to pray "unceasingly" for someone? How can you do that starting this week?

15. Paul recognized that He was always to be directed by the will of God. His plans and desires were under subjection to what God wanted. How can you apply this to the way that you pray? Do you often make plans without prayer? What does that say about your practically living out the lordship of Christ?

16. From verse 11, what is the first reason Paul gives for praying that he will be able to see the Romans? What would this result in?

17. In what ways can you follow the example of Paul and help establish other believers in their faith?

18. Secondly, Paul prays that he will be able to visit Rome so that he can be an encouragement to them and be encouraged by them. It makes sense to us that a spiritual leader like Paul would be able to minister to the Romans in this way. But in what ways do you think that the Romans could minister to him? How can you apply this and minister to your spiritual leaders?

19. What is the third reason Paul gives for wanting to see them in verse 13? What does this mean?

20. Paul gives the overarching purpose for all of this in verse 14? What is it? Why is this? (Also refer to 1 Corinthians 9:16-17).

21. Are you under obligation to minister to others? What does this practically look like?

22. There are times when service is a joy and a reward in and of itself. But there are other times when we just don't feel like it, the work is hard, and we would like nothing better than to take a break from ministry. In light of your obligation, what should your response to these times be?

This week, be mindful that God transformed you by His gracious gospel. Commit to displaying His grace by living for His glory. Abstain from practices which will dishonor His name.

Thank God for placing you in a church where people are committed to using their gifts to build you up and strengthen you in your walk with God. Ask God to help you to minister to other believers in the same fashion and to share the gospel with the lost. It is your obligation.