

**BOOK OF ROMANS**  
**THE GOSPEL IS THE BASIS OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY!**  
**ROMANS 1:14-17**

**Introduction**

We have seen over the last seven messages how **THE GOSPEL IS OUR CONFIDENCE**.

In the verses before us this evening we see three final areas where the **GOSPEL**, which is **WHERE OUR CONFIDENCE LIES**, should affect our lives as **BELIEVERS!**

What I will share from these verses is nothing new to us, but rather is just a reminder of these things as that is what most preaching to **BELIEVERS** is!

I personally couldn't tell you the number of messages that I've heard in my lifetime on these four verses alone. If you've been in **CHURCH** a while you have probably heard some preacher somewhere use the three words that I'm going to use here! Again...this is not something new, but is a reminder!

I was going to handle these three things all in one message, but I just couldn't do it! Let me give you the three things and then we will look at the first one tonight!

*Vs. 14 THE GOSPEL IS THE BASIS OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY.*

*Vs. 15 THE GOSPEL IS THE BASIS OF OUR AVAILABILITY.*

*Vs. 16 THE GOSPEL IS THE BASIS OF OUR DEPENDABILITY.*

**PAUL** states that he is *"a debtor"* when it comes to sharing the **GOSPEL!**

**I. OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT ALL MEN ARE SINNERS BEFORE GOD AND SO THEY ARE IN NEED OF THE GOSPEL!**

**Here is an observation: The more sinful men there are to sin, the more sinning there will be!**

In the beginning...**ADAM** and **EVE** sinned...and then they had children and their children sinned (**CAIN** and **ABEL** and then **SETH**)...by the time you get to the flood in **NOAH'S** day there is a **great population of sinners doing what sinners do—SINNING!**

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(1656 years of begetting by people living longer lives than what we have today produced a world full of **sinners!**)

*Genesis 6:5— "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."*

So **GOD** wiped out all except **NOAH**, his wife, his sons, and their wives (8 souls) **and the sinning continued** just on a smaller basis. That's because **NOAH** and his sons and their families were all sinners.

**Fast forward to today and we have 7.9 billion sinners on the face of the earth doing what sinners do—SINNING! Is it any wonder that the LORD JESUS CHRIST said the days of HIS coming again were going to be as it was in the days of NOAH?**

**The OLD TESTAMENT is clear that ALL MEN ARE SINNERS!**  
*1 Kings 8:46 and 2 Chronicles 6:36 — "...for there is no man which sinneth not..."*

*Ecclesiastes 7:20— "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."*

*Isaiah 53:6— "All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned every one to his own way; And the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."*

**PAUL** established the very foundation of this fact that **ALL ARE SINNERS** in the balance of *Romans 1* here all the way to *Romans 3*.

**A. The Progressive Digression Of Sinful Men Declared!**  
*(Romans 1:18-32)*  
**PAUL gives details in Chapter 1 of man's downward spiral into sin whereby:**

**1. GOD gave them up to uncleanness! (Vs 24)**

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2. **God giving them over to vile affections! (Vs 26) and**
3. **God giving them over to a reprobate mind! (Vs 28)**

PAUL, who was a **JEW** himself, knew that any **JEWS** in the **ROMAN CHURCH** might think that those verses in **Chapter 1** just applied to the **GENTILES!** So, in **Romans 2**, PAUL revealed their wrong thinking!

**B. The Proudful Denial Of Sinful Jews Debunked!**  
*(Romans 2:1-29)*

The **JEWS** felt they were above what PAUL said because of their advantage of having the **LAW of GOD!**

**C. The Proper Declaration Of All Under Damnation!**  
*(Romans 3:9-12, 19-20, 23)*

So, *OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT ALL MEN ARE SINNERS BEFORE GOD AND SO THEY ARE IN NEED OF THE GOSPEL!*

**II. OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT JESUS DIED FOR ALL SINNERS!**

Let me state it a different way:

**JESUS Died For Us, But He Didn't Just Die For Us And Those Like Us, He Died For All!**

*John 3:16– “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

**JESUS died for the JEW but not just for the JEW!**

**PETER**, the **APOSTLE** to the **CIRCUMCISION** (the **JEWS**) [*Galatians 2:7, 8*], came to an understanding of this truth when the **LORD** spoke to him through a vision and sent him to preach the **GOSPEL** to **CORNELIUS** and his band!

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*(Acts 10 gives the vision and PETER'S obedience and then Acts 11 gives PETER'S defense before the JEWS!)*

**JESUS died for the GENTILES as well!**

In fact, our text mentions **PAUL'S debt or responsibility extended to “both to the Greeks and Barbarians; both to the wise and the unwise”**

**Greeks – From the Lexham Bible Dictionary:**

This was a versatile description used to identify several **geographic and/or cultural groups, including:**

- The peoples who inhabited the lower Balkan Peninsula (Greece) before uniting as a nation-state around 334 BC;
- People throughout the eastern Mediterranean who adopted **Hellenistic culture** after Alexander the Great's conquests (d. 323 BC);
- People who are not **JEWS**. (*i.e. Gentiles*)

Greeks were defined more by cultural and geographic connections than by ethnic background. **So we might refer to them as the cultured Gentiles.**

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**Barbarians**

The word translated **Barbarians** on the other hand refers to the **non-Greek, uncivilized, foreigners or natives**. (*i.e. Uncultured Gentiles... “The rude, crude, and socially unacceptable.”*)

The very fact that the **APOSTLE PAUL** is writing this **EPISTLE** in **GREEK** and takes for granted that they can understand it, proves that, in the sense already indicated, most of the people of this **CHURCH** to whom he writes could be called “**GREEKS**.”

“**Wise**” and “**unwise**” or we could say **learned** and **unlearned** fits the two previous categories as well! (*i.e. Greeks and Barbarians*)

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*2 Corinthians 5:14– “14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that **if one died for all, then were all dead:***

*OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT ALL MEN ARE SINNERS BEFORE GOD AND SO THEY ARE IN NEED OF THE GOSPEL!*

*OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT JESUS DIED FOR ALL SINNERS!*

**III. OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT WE WHO HAVE RECEIVED AND BELIEVED THE GOSPEL ARE NOW STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED AND BELIEVED!**

**A. We Are Debtors Based Upon The Commission That We Received At Our Salvation!**

**1. The Great Commission Came Initially From Christ To His Disciples!**

*Matthew 28:18–19–“18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

**2. The Great Commission Comes Our Way From Christ Through His Disciples!**

*Matthew 28:20–“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

*Acts 1:8–“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

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*We Are Debtors Based Upon The Commission That We Received At Our Salvation!*

**B. We Are Debtors Based Upon The Stewardship That We Received From GOD! (1 Thessalonians 2:4)**  
*1 Timothy 1:11–“According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.”*

In today’s vernacular it is called a *fiduciary relationship!*

When something is **committed to someone’s “trust”** it implies “*stewardship*” being expected on the part of the one to whom it is *entrusted!* (e.g. *Parable of the talents in Matthew 25:15ff*)

*1 Corinthians 4:1–2–“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

Let’s think of it this way. When we got saved, we “*entrusted our souls*” to the **LORD!** That is a *trust* well placed!

Well, when we did that, **HE “entrusted”** us with the **GOSPEL** of which we will give an account one day of our *stewardship* of the **GOSPEL!**

See also, *2 Corinthians 5:18-19.*

**C. We Are Debtors Based Upon Our Ambassadorship Of Christ! (2 Corinthians 5:20)**  
*Ambassador = representative on behalf of another*

**Conclusion**

Jesus died for all, and we have received the GOSPEL we have a responsibility to get it to all!