

## *Romans 1:8-17*

### **What did it mean for Paul to be a bond-servant of Jesus Christ?**

“I am under obligation”

“I am eager”

“I am not ashamed”

#### **1.**

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world. 9 For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the {preaching of the} gospel of His Son, is my witness {as to} how unceasingly I make mention of you, 10 always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

**Paul was eager to encourage and  
was not ashamed of the church.  
Paul came to his obligations with  
thankfulness.**

#### **2.**

11 For I long to see you in order that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; 12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you {while} among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine. 13 And I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented thus far) in order that I might obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles. 14 **I am under obligation** both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. 15 Thus, for my part, **I am eager** to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

**Paul was eager to receive and  
was not ashamed of his own need.  
Paul came to his obligations with  
humility.**

### 3.

16 For **I am not ashamed of the gospel**, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it {the} righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “ *But the righteous {man} shall live by faith.*”

**Paul was eager to preach and  
was not ashamed of the gospel.  
Paul came to his obligations with  
confidence.**

**The point of this passage:**

**As bond-servants of Christ**

**we meet the obligations of our calling with  
thankfulness, humility, and confidence**

**because we are not ashamed of  
the church, ourselves, or the gospel.**

# The paradox of a Christian bond-servant's heart:

- **Obligation and Eagerness.**

*The four great mandates of the Christian life*

Cultural mandate	Commission mandate	Charismatic mandate	Character mandate
“care for the creation” Gen.1	“build the bride of Christ” Matt.28, Eph.4	“exercise spiritual gifts” Rom.12, I Cor.12	“become Christ like” Rom.6, Eph.4

- **Thankfulness and Neediness.**

- **Giving and Receiving.**

“The power of God for salvation”

- is not the church
- is not the clergy
- is not the ethics
- is not the Scripture

**is the Gospel**

- The Gospel is **not aesthetically pleasing** enough for those who see the church as a museum of spiritual art.
- The Gospel is **insulting** to those who see the church as a showcase for the ethical elite.
- The Gospel is **not practical** enough for those who define power only in

**terms of money, technology, political position, and the latest therapy.**