

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.