

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Totally Abandoned to the Gospel

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Romans 1:14-16

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2041

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Today's message will study the heart and mind of a man who was totally abandoned to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul.
  - i) Many esteem Paul as the greatest Christian who ever lived.
- b) The Apostle Paul wrote the book of Romans.
- c) Romans 1:14-16
  - i) Paul made three "I am" statements in these verses.
    - (1) "I am debtor."
    - (2) "I am ready."
    - (3) "I am not ashamed."
  - ii) When we put these three statements together, we understand what motivated the Apostle Paul.
- d) The Apostle Paul preached and was a missionary just a few short years after the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven.
  - i) When Paul himself went to Heaven, there was a Christian church in every major city in the western empire.
  - ii) 1 Corinthians 11:1
- e) Paul met the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus and asked the Lord two questions:
  - i) "Who are You, Lord?"
  - ii) "What would You have me to do?"
    - (1) Acts 9:5-6
    - (2) If we will ask these same two questions of the Lord, get the answers from Him, and then follow Him correctly, we will then understand what life is all about.
      - (a) Know who Jesus is and what He would have you to do.

2) FAITHFUL TO THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE GOSPEL (ROMANS 1:14)

- a) Romans 1:14
  - i) "I am debtor."
  - ii) This tells us that Paul was faithful.
    - (1) Paul saw himself as a debtor.
    - (2) Romans 1:1
      - (a) Paul saw himself as a bond slave.
      - (b) A bond slave was someone who had been purchased and then wanted to serve his master willingly and voluntarily.
- b) 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- c) We are debtors to the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - i) Romans 1:14
  - ii) Salvation is free to us because Jesus paid it all.
  - iii) We are debtors to the one who hung in agony and blood on the cross for us.
    - (1) We cannot pay for our salvation.
    - (2) But we can serve Him because of His love for us and our love for Him.

- d) We are debtors to the heroes of the past.
  - i) Acts 7-8
    - (1) Paul was there when Stephen was stoned.
      - (a) It was through the stoning of Stephen that Paul came under conviction.
      - (2) Paul held the clothes of those who stoned the first Christian missionary.
    - ii) Paul had a debt to Stephen whom he had helped kill.
    - iii) Paul had a debt to those Old Testament prophets who were stoned and massacred for the cause of Christ.
    - iv) There are many heroes of the past who suffered, bled and died that we might worship openly today.
      - (1) We are able to go to church today and worship in comfort because of the vision, blood, sweat, tears, faith and sacrifice of others who came before us.
    - v) We are debtors to those who have gone before us and debtors to our Lord.
  - e) We are debtors to those around us.
    - i) Romans 1:14
      - (1) When he refers to the Greeks and the barbarians, Paul is talking about the cultured and the non-cultured.
        - (a) He is talking about the up-and-out and the down-and-out.
        - (b) He is talking about the educated and the ignorant.
        - (c) He is talking about the rich and the poor.
        - (d) Paul is saying that everyone needs to know Jesus.
      - ii) Matthew 10:8
        - (1) Freely we have received; we are to freely give.
          - (a) We have been saved by the grace of God.
          - (b) Jesus paid it all, and all to Him we owe.
            - (i) Our sins have been pardoned by Jesus Christ.
            - (ii) We need to tell others that Jesus has provided the pardon for their sins if they will only receive Him.
        - iii) We need a compassion for lost people.
        - iv) We have a responsibility to tell others about Jesus.
- 3) FLEXIBLE FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE GOSPEL (ROMANS 1:15)
  - a) Romans 1:15
    - i) We must be both faithful and flexible.
    - ii) We must understand that we are debtors, and as a result, we must be ready.
    - iii) "I am ready."
  - b) Obviously, Paul was ready to live for Christ.
    - i) We must be ready to live.
    - ii) Philippians 1:21

- iii) Paul was a great witness for Christ because he was also part of the evidence.
      - (1) Is there anything different about your life?
      - (2) Does your neighbor see a quality in your life that would cause him to question what's different about you?
  - c) We are not ready to live for Christ until we are ready to die for Christ.
    - i) We must be ready to die.
    - ii) 1 Corinthians 15:31
    - iii) Acts 20:24
    - iv) This does not mean that we want to die for Him; that would be a martyr complex.
    - v) The Apostle Paul loved life, and yet he was not afraid to die.
      - (1) The Apostle Paul was ready to die.
  - d) We must be ready to go.
    - i) Romans 1:15
    - ii) Are you ready to go if the Lord Jesus wanted you to be a preacher or a missionary or called you to a certain task?
  - e) We must be ready to stay.
    - i) If the Lord were to speak to you today, would you say, "Yes, Lord, yes?"
    - ii) Sometimes it takes more grace to stay, pray, support and give than it does to go.
  - f) Are you ready to live, ready to die if necessary, ready to go, and ready to stay?
    - i) And not half-hearted, but with all that is within you?
- 4) FEARLESS AT THE OPPOSITION TO THE GOSPEL (ROMANS 1:16)
  - a) There was so much opposition to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but Paul wasn't fearful about the Gospel.
    - i) Romans 1:16
    - ii) "I am not ashamed."
  - b) Paul was not ashamed of the person of the Gospel.
    - i) Romans 1:16
    - ii) The Gospel of Jesus Christ was identified with a poor, Jewish carpenter who was crucified.
    - iii) Paul went to Rome, the Imperial city with all of its might, power, and armies, to talk with them about a Jew.
      - (1) The Romans had no appreciation for the Jews, especially one who was not a philosopher but a crucified carpenter.
    - iv) Rome was a proud city.
      - (1) The Gospel came out of Jerusalem, not Rome.
        - (a) Why should Rome listen to anything that came out of a conquered place?
    - v) The Christians were not considered the "big shots" of that day.
      - (1) 1 Corinthians 1:26

- (2) They didn't have a lot a philosophers, generals, or wealthy people among their ranks.
- (3) They were considered the scum of the Earth of that day.
- (4) When Paul went to Rome, he went as a prisoner.
  - (a) Yet, he did not hang his head in shame.
- vi) Paul was bold for the Lord Jesus.
  - (1) Are you ashamed of the Gospel?
  - (2) Are you ashamed to put a Bible on your desk at work?
  - (3) Are you ashamed to invite people to Jesus Christ?
- vii) We ought to be open and bold for the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
  - (1) His name is above every name.
- c) Paul was not ashamed of the purpose of the Gospel.
  - i) Romans 1:16
    - (1) The purpose: unto salvation.
  - ii) There's no greater business or occupation than sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
  - iii) The Gospel is not intended to save civilization from wreckage, but to save people from the wreckage of civilization.
    - (1) Jesus did not come as a social engineer.
      - (a) Luke 19:10
  - iv) There are all kinds of losses, but how tragic it would be to lose your soul.
    - (1) Mark 8:36
  - v) How can we be ashamed of the Gospel when the power of the Gospel is the only thing that can help this world today?
    - (1) The Gospel is the only thing that can make alcoholics sober.
    - (2) It is the only thing that can make adulterers pure.
    - (3) It is the only thing that can give a hope that is steadfast and true.
    - (4) Without the Gospel of Jesus Christ, there is no hope.
- d) Paul wasn't ashamed of the power of the Gospel.
  - i) Romans 1:16
    - (1) The word used for "power" in this passage is the Greek word from which we get our word "dynamite."
  - ii) There is only one power that can wash us and make us whiter than snow, and that is the power of the Gospel.
    - (1) It is by grace through faith.
- e) Paul wasn't ashamed of the plan of the Gospel.
  - i) Romans 1:16
    - (1) "To everyone that believeth."
    - (2) The plan of salvation is gloriously simple and simply glorious.
  - ii) John 3:15
  - iii) There are some who want to tell others, "You have to believe and..."
    - (1) The moment we add anything to the plan of salvation, we take the "whosoever" out of it.

- (a) For instance, if we say that we have to believe and be baptized:
  - (i) Then that would mean that nobody in the desert could be saved.
  - (ii) That would mean that nobody on an airplane could be saved.
- iv) God's simple, glorious plan is that anybody, anywhere and anytime can say, "Lord Jesus, come into my heart and save me."
  - (1) And He will.

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) This sin-cursed world looks to science to save us.
  - i) Science can tell us how far it is from the Earth to the sun, but it can't save us.
- b) This world looks to culture to save us.
  - i) But all culture can do is make this world a better place to go to Hell from.
- c) This world looks to finance and business to save us.
  - i) All finance can do is to tell us how to gather money to leave it all behind.
- d) The world looks to philosophy to save us.
  - i) All philosophy can do is tell us more and more about less and less until we know everything about nothing, but it can't save us.
- e) There is only one who can save.
  - i) Romans 1:16
  - ii) Jesus saves.
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16