**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Totally Abandoned to the Gospel |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Romans 1:14-16 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2041 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. 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.
      1. Many esteem Paul as the greatest Christian who ever lived.
   2. The Apostle Paul wrote the book of Romans.
   3. Romans 1:14-16
      1. Paul made three “I am” statements in these verses.
         1. “I am debtor.”
         2. “I am ready.”
         3. “I am not ashamed.”
      2. When we put these three statements together, we understand what motivated the Apostle Paul.
   4. The Apostle Paul preached and was a missionary just a few short years after the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven.
      1. When Paul himself went to Heaven, there was a Christian church in every major city in the western empire.
      2. 1 Corinthians 11:1
   5. Paul met the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus and asked the Lord two questions:
      1. “Who are You, Lord?”
      2. “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.
            1. Know who Jesus is and what He would have you to do.
2. faithful to the obligations of the gospel (romans 1:14)
   1. Romans 1:14
      1. “I am debtor.”
      2. This tells us that Paul was faithful.
         1. Paul saw himself as a debtor.
         2. Romans 1:1
            1. Paul saw himself as a bond slave.
            2. A bond slave was someone who had been purchased and then wanted to serve his master willingly and voluntarily.
   2. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
   3. We are debtors to the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. Romans 1:14
      2. Salvation is free to us because Jesus paid it all.
      3. 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.
   4. We are debtors to the heroes of the past.
      1. Acts 7-8
         1. Paul was there when Stephen was stoned.
            1. 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.
      2. Paul had a debt to Stephen whom he had helped kill.
      3. Paul had a debt to those Old Testament prophets who were stoned and massacred for the cause of Christ.
      4. 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.
      5. We are debtors to those who have gone before us and debtors to our Lord.
   5. We are debtors to those around us.
      1. Romans 1:14
         1. When he refers to the Greeks and the barbarians, Paul is talking about the cultured and the non-cultured.
            1. He is talking about the up-and-out and the down-and-out.
            2. He is talking about the educated and the ignorant.
            3. He is talking about the rich and the poor.
            4. Paul is saying that everyone needs to know Jesus.
      2. Matthew 10:8
         1. Freely we have received; we are to feely give.
            1. We have been saved by the grace of God.
            2. Jesus paid it all, and all to Him we owe.

Our sins have been pardoned by Jesus Christ.

We need to tell others that Jesus has provided the pardon for their sins if they will only receive Him.

* + 1. We need a compassion for lost people.
    2. We have a responsibility to tell others about Jesus.

1. flexible for the opportunities of the Gospel (romans 1:15)
   1. Romans 1:15
      1. We must be both faithful and flexible.
      2. We must understand that we are debtors, and as a result, we must be ready.
      3. “I am ready.”
   2. Obviously, Paul was ready to live for Christ.
      1. We must be ready to live.
      2. Philippians 1:21
      3. 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?
   3. We are not ready to live for Christ until we are ready to die for Christ.
      1. We must be ready to die.
      2. 1 Corinthians 15:31
      3. Acts 20:24
      4. This does not mean that we want to die for Him; that would be a martyr complex.
      5. The Apostle Paul loved life, and yet he was not afraid to die.
         1. The Apostle Paul was ready to die.
   4. We must be ready to go.
      1. Romans 1:15
      2. 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?
   5. We must be ready to stay.
      1. If the Lord were to speak to you today, would you say, “Yes, Lord, yes?”
      2. Sometimes it takes more grace to stay, pray, support and give than it does to go.
   6. Are you ready to live, ready to die if necessary, ready to go, and ready to stay?
      1. And not half-hearted, but with all that is within you?
2. fearless at the opposition to the gospel (romans 1:16)
   1. There was so much opposition to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but Paul wasn’t fearful about the Gospel.
      1. Romans 1:16
      2. “I am not ashamed.”
   2. Paul was not ashamed of the person of the Gospel.
      1. Romans 1:16
      2. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was identified with a poor, Jewish carpenter who was crucified.
      3. 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.
      4. Rome was a proud city.
         1. The Gospel came out of Jerusalem, not Rome.
            1. Why should Rome listen to anything that came out of a conquered place?
      5. 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.
            1. Yet, he did not hang his head in shame.
      6. 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?
      7. We ought to be open and bold for the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
         1. His name is above every name.
   3. Paul was not ashamed of the purpose of the Gospel.
      1. Romans 1:16
         1. The purpose: unto salvation.
      2. There’s no greater business or occupation than sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
      3. 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.
            1. Luke 19:10
      4. There are all kinds of losses, but how tragic it would be to lose your soul.
         1. Mark 8:36
      5. 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.
   4. Paul wasn’t ashamed of the power of the Gospel.
      1. Romans 1:16
         1. The word used for “power” in this passage is the Greek word from which we get our word “dynamite.”
      2. 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.
   5. Paul wasn’t ashamed of the plan of the Gospel.
      1. Romans 1:16
         1. “To everyone that believeth.”
         2. The plan of salvation is gloriously simple and simply glorious.
      2. John 3:15
      3. 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.
            1. For instance, if we say that we have to believe and be baptized:

Then that would mean that nobody in the desert could be saved.

That would mean that nobody on an airplane could be saved.

* + 1. 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.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. This sin-cursed world looks to science to save us.
      1. Science can tell us how far it is from the Earth to the sun, but it can’t save us.
   2. This world looks to culture to save us.
      1. But all culture can do is make this world a better place to go to Hell from.
   3. This world looks to finance and business to save us.
      1. All finance can do is to tell us how to gather money to leave it all behind.
   4. The world looks to philosophy to save us.
      1. 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.
   5. There is only one who can save.
      1. Romans 1:16
      2. Jesus saves.
   6. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   7. 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.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16