

# WHAT OUR CHURCH OWES OUR CITY

ROMANS 1; ACTS 20

Text: Romans 1:14; Acts 20:26

(Romans 1:14) "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise."

(Acts 20:26) "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men."

Introduction:

Paul in Romans said that he owed a debt. Now he was not talking about money, but rather something far more valuable than money. He was speaking of the Gospel.

In Acts we read that Paul was pure from the blood of all men. What Paul was saying was simply I have done that which God had given me to do. I have not failed to deliver the gospel to all the people of the city.

And we consider this thought; What is it that Temple Baptist Church owes Salem VA. Not some other church and some other city, but this church and this city.

# 1. WHAT IS IT THAT WE OWE?

A. The message of the gospel.

(Acts 20:27-28) "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. {28} Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

A. To have means to owe.

B. Because we have the knowledge of Jesus Christ we owe it to others to tell them about Jesus Christ.

1. The first part of that debt is because of our allegiance to God.

a. It is His message.

b. We are His ambassadors.

(John 20:21) "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

(Luke 24:48) "And ye are witnesses of these things."

2. The second part of that debt is to the people.

a. Have you had the good news shared with you?

b. Have you trusted Christ as your personal Saviour?

c. Has someone shared with you that because that we are a sinner that we owe a payment for our sin.

d. Now as we consider this, let's think about where God has placed this church.

- We need to get down every street and to every house in our city and give them the gospel in word and with tracts.

## **2. WHY DO WE OWE IT?**

Illustration:

Let's suppose that you were hungry and you went to the grocery store. Would you expect to find in the store food?

Certainly

If you went to an auto parts store you would expect to find parts for your car.

Certainly

Well the Lord Jesus Christ established His church.

(Ephesians 5:25) "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"

(Matthew 16:18) "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

A. It is our responsibility because we have the gospel to give the gospel to others.

1. People in our community just as they would go to the store and expect to find groceries, and an auto store to find car parts, they have a right to expect that a church is telling people about Jesus.

2. Churches are doing everything today.

a. Helping people lose weight.

- b. Running different programs, this and that in which all may not be bad, but we owe it to our city to give out the gospel.
- 3. No one on earth has the responsibility to do what God has given us to do.
- 4. In my heart I want a place that will be faithful to the Word of God. A place that stands true and unwavering. A place that will train young people in the truths of the Bible. A place that loves people regardless of race, or social standing.
- 5. There a city after city all across our nation and the world that need a church like that.
- 6. Someone shared the gospel with us and we need to share Jesus with others.

Illustration:

Not paying our debts will affect our credit rating. But how is rating in God's books with the debt that we owe with the gospel?

How many people have we passed on the street, rode an elevator with, had lunch with, lived beside us that we have failed to share the gospel with them.

### **3. WHEN DO WE OWE IT?**

#### A. Now

1. Someone today is dying without Christ.

Illustration:

125,000 people will die today and go to hell according to old statistics.

What if everyone in Salem drank poison water and everyone died. That would be a tragic thing, but more people die every day and go to hell and it seems as if we're not even bothered by it.

I'm told that there will be 137,000 people who will be born today and will live their life and never hear a clear presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

If you were to take every lost person alive today and stand them in line around the world, they would circle the 25,000 mile world 9 times and that line grows 20 miles a day.

If we were to stop the births and stop the deaths and win souls at the rate that we are winning them at now it would take 400 years to win America to Christ and it would take 4000 years to win the world to Christ.

But in order to reach the world we need to start right here.

2. There are neighbors, who may not be physically dying, but their homes are falling apart, and they are making decisions about whether or not to stay together as a family, and the Lord wants someone to go and knock on their door and introduce them to Jesus Christ.

3. What will it take for you to pay your debt to Salem?

4. What will it take for you to take tracts home and give them to everyone on your street?

Close:

Will you pay your debt to Salem?

2000 Population of Salem, VA 24747

In order for everyone in our city to get the Gospel we must give out the Gospel by word or by print:

- 476 Contacts per week
- 68 Contacts per day
- 6 Contacts per hour (12 Hr Day)

With # of people making contacts (6 Days)

50 people – 9 Contacts per week; 1.5 Contacts per day  
40 people – 12 Contacts per week; 2 Contact per day  
30 people – 16 Contacts per week; 2.6 Contacts per day  
20 people – 24 Contacts per week; 4 Contacts per day  
15 people – 32 Contacts per week; 5.3 Contacts per day  
10 people – 48 Contacts per week; 8 Contacts per day  
5 people – 95 Contacts per week; 19 Contact per day