

WHAT MAKES A MAN A WITNESS? Rom 1:14-17

Int: This jubilant little Jew jogged around the world of his day introducing everyone he met to Jesus! What made Paul the witness he was? He laid them out in the text. The things that made him a witness will make any person a witness. A witness is one who

OWES A DEBT 1:14-15

To be “obligated” was “to owe a debt. Many have the **TAKER** mentality, i.e. “They owe me!” Paul had the **DEBTOR** mentality, i.e. “I owe them!” Whether Greek or barbarian, cultured or crude, Paul felt obligated to see that everybody around him heard the gospel from him. That sense of personal debt made him a witness.

“All the souls in the world are hung around the neck of each man” (Kazantzakis). Every saved person this side of heaven owes a gospel witness to every lost person this side of hell! Look carefully at the people you meet. You owe each a witness.

H. Clay Trumbull’s “life resolve” was that, whenever he was free to choose the topic of conversation with a person, he would speak of Jesus!

A sense of indebtedness will make any Christian a witness.

Do you see that you owe people the gospel?

HAS SOME PRIDE 1:16-17

“Not ashamed” is just another way to say “I am proud of the gospel!” In it God revealed his righteousness. Righteousness is an **ATTRIBUTE** of God, i.e. he does right and demands his people do right, too. But it is also an **ACTIVITY** of God, i.e. he takes men wrong with him and sets them right with him! Paul was proud of the gospel because of....

ITS STRENGTH. The world of Paul’s day was fond of power. But with all its vaunted power Rome had none to save! Only God’s power can save and that power is at work in the gospel! Paul had seen God’s gospel power save! No wonder he was proud of it!

ITS SCOPE. The Empire was full of “mystery” religions, secret clubs that offered membership by invitation and initiation only. They drew circles that shut most people out. Paul gloried in the fact that the gospel extends to everyone and excludes no one. No one has to be left out from a gospel invitation. No wonder he was proud of it!

ITS SIMPLICITY. The gospel is open to anyone who “believes.” Of the over four hundred plans of salvation taught in the United States alone, which is right? The test that points out the true way of salvation is simplicity, i.e. it works under any set of circumstances. Only the way of faith meets that test. Salvation is “from faith to faith,” i.e. by faith alone from first to last! No wonder he was proud of it.

Pride in the gospel will make any man a witness!

Are you in any way proud of the gospel?