

I AM DEBTOR

Reading: Matthew 28:18-20

Text: Romans 1:11 – 17

Introduction:

1. In studying the "I AM" statements of Jesus, many things about His nature and work were learned.
2. However, the overarching lesson was that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and, therefore, the only source of salvation for man.
3. The fact of who Jesus is demands who His followers, Christians, must be!
4. Thus, it is important to notice several "I AM" statements of the Christian...
 - I. I AM A DEBTOR TO CHRIST
 - A. Debtor is *"one who owes another; one held by some obligation, bound by some duty."*
 - B. Paul was in debt to man because he was in debt to Christ.
 1. Yet, one must understand the debt owed...
 2. Matthew 18:23-35.
 - a. The man in the parable owed a debt which he could not pay.
 - b. But his master simply forgave him the debt.
 - c. Yet, he was still indebted to his master for when he did not act appropriately he was punished.
 - d. His new debt was not of money or even service—it was a debt of honor, respect and love.
 3. You and I owed a debt that we could never pay—we were slaves to Satan by sin.
 4. But Jesus purchased our freedom with His blood. He washed away the debt on the cross (Rom. 6:23).

5. *"Gone is all my debt of sin,
And to live I now begin,
Yet the debt I did not pay
Sweeping all the debt away,*
- Oh, I hope to please Him now,
As at His dear feet I bow,
Making His the debt I owed,
So I'm singing on the road*
- "He paid a debt He did not owe,
I owed a debt I could not pay.
I needed someone to wash my sins away.
And now I sing a brand new song: 'Amazing Grace.'
Christ Jesus paid the debt that I could never pay."*
- "I hear the Savior say,
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Jesus paid it all,
Sin had left a crimson stain,*
- A great change is bro't within,
Risen from the fall;
Someone died for me one day,
Jesus paid it all.*
- Light of joy is on my brow,
Safe within His love.
Freedom true He has bestowed;
To my home above."*
- 'Thy strength indeed is small;
Find in Me thine all in all.'
All to Him I owe;
He washed it white as snow."*

- C. The price Jesus paid to remove man's debt of sin causes man to become indebted to Christ—with a debt of gratitude and love.
1. Because of what he did for us, we choose to live for Him!
 2. Again, this is a debt we can never repay (Luke 17:7-10).
 - a. Yes, we obey the rules...
 - b. Yes, we serve others...
 - c. Yes, we help the poor, needy, suffering, etc.
 - d. Yes, we evangelize...
 - e. Yes, we attend services and worship God...
 - f. But, not for worldly acknowledgement, not for a pat on the back, not because we are forced to, not to pay the debt!
 3. Love has become the motivating factor of our lives!

II. I AM A DEBTOR TO THE WORLD

- A. Because he was in debt to Christ, Paul was also in debt to the world (Greeks and Barbarians). *{Jew and Gentile...}*

B. It is a debt of service to Christ.

1. Why did Paul feel a debt to preach to the world?
2. Because God commanded him to (Mark 16:15-16).
3. Because God called him to (Acts 22:14-16, 21; 26:16-18).
4. He loved Jesus enough to do what He commanded! *{In spite of persecution, hardship, etc.}*

C. It is a debt of love for the world.

1. Paul realized that the debt which Jesus paid on Calvary was not his alone—every soul owed that same debt!
2. Read—Romans 1:14-17
3. He knew that salvation was only in Christ and available through the Gospel. Thus, he preached it everywhere!

D. It is our debt also.

1. Do we love Jesus enough to do what He commands?
 - a. He has told us to evangelize (Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Tim. 2:2).
 - b. Do we feel a debt toward the world because of what Jesus did for us and them?
 - c. We have salvation from sins! They need it! Jesus is the only solution to the problem.
 - d. We have the message of salvation! They must hear it! Who else can or will preach the Gospel?
2. Do we love the world enough to serve them?

Conclusion:

1. Because of who Jesus is, there are certain things that I must be.
2. I am a debtor to Christ for the sacrifice He made for my sins.
3. I am a debtor to the world for Jesus has given me the plan of salvation.