

**BOOK OF ROMANS
THE GOSPEL AND OUR AVAILABILITY!
ROMANS 1:14-17**

Introduction

We began last week to look at these four verses that we just read again. Here we see three final areas where the **GOSPEL** should affect our lives as **BELIEVERS!**

The first area we saw last is found in *Vs. 14* **THE GOSPEL AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY.**

OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT ALL MEN ARE SINNERS BEFORE GOD AND SO THEY ARE IN NEED OF THE GOSPEL!

OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT JESUS DIED FOR ALL SINNERS!

OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT WE WHO HAVE RECEIVED AND BELIEVED THE GOSPEL ARE NOW STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED AND BELIEVED!

Next, we look at the second area found in *Vs. 15* — **THE GOSPEL AND OUR AVAILABILITY.**

PAUL stated here that he was “**READY**” to share the **GOSPEL!**

When we look at the **APOSTLE PAUL’S** life, we see someone who was “**ALL-IN**” when it came to the **GOSPEL** and serving the **LORD JESUS CHRIST!** He expresses his eagerness to preach the **GOSPEL** in **ROME!**

PAUL’S attitude toward both the **GOSPEL** and **CHRIST** shows forth a **CONFIDENCE** that we have already seen here in this first chapter of **ROMANS** and that can also be seen elsewhere in his other **WRITINGS** as well as in **LUKE’S** account of **PAUL’S** life in the **BOOK OF ACTS.**

Let’s look at some things in **PAUL’S** life that show his **AVAILABILITY** to **PREACH** and **SHARE** the **GOSPEL** of **CHRIST** that can help us in our **AVAILABILITY** as well!

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I. PAUL’S AVAILABILITY IS SHOWN IN HIS SURRENDERING HIMSELF TO GOD!

Acts 9:6—“..Lord, what wilt thou have me to do.”

When **PAUL** met the **LORD** on the **DAMASCUS** road and came to an understanding of his own **SINFULNESS** and the **LORD’S** great **SACRIFICE** for him, he **SURRENDERED** his life to the **LORD!**

He didn’t just pray a little prayer and go back to being what he was before! **The LORD brought forth a CHANGE in his life such that he was never the same again!**

He put his **PAST** behind him and was **ALL-IN** when it came to the **GOSPEL** and serving the **LORD JESUS CHRIST!** Some folks, have trouble getting beyond their wicked **PAST**, but not **PAUL!**

Philippians 3:12–14—“12... but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

And, this is important, **PAUL SURRENDERED** even before he knew what the **LORD** wanted him to do!

Many say they want to know the **LORD’S** will for their life, but they have not **SURRENDERED** to do **HIS** will first! They want to reserve the right to say “**No!**” to **GOD!** The **WILL OF GOD** is **HIS BEST** for our lives and should not be looked at as being optional!

When the **WILL OF THE LORD** was revealed to **PAUL**, he did not **balk at it** or **argue with it**, or **reject it!** **What he did was embrace it because he was already SURRENDERED to it!**

He was not like **MOSES** when the **LORD** called him to service!

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Remember the **LORD** appearing to **MOSES** in *Exodus 3-4*:

1. "I ain't nobody to be doing this!" (3:11)
2. "I don't know what to say?" (3:13)
3. "They're not going to believe me or listen to me." (4:1)
4. "I am not a good speaker!" (4:10)
5. "I really don't want to be the one!" (4:13)

What the **LORD** needed from **MOSES** was for him to just **SURRENDER** and the **LORD** would be there for him each step of the way! He was at best a reluctant servant in the beginning!

PAUL'S AVAILABILITY IS SHOWN IN HIS SURRENDERING HIMSELF TO GOD!

II. PAUL'S AVAILABILITY IS SHOWN IN HIS SANCTIFYING HIMSELF UNTO GOD!

"SANCTIFYING" = "to set apart unto the LORD for HIS PURPOSES!" OR "To set apart as sacred to God!"

It is the same as **"to make HOLY"** or **"to be HOLY"** or **"to DEDICATE!"** It also means **"to be removed from common use!"** and **"to be devoted!"**

- A. The LORD SANCTIFIED PAUL First Just As He Does Each Of Us Who Are SAVED BY HIS GRACE!**
Even the carnal **CHURCH** at **CORINTH** was **SANCTIFIED!**
1 Corin. 1:2– "...them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus..."

Hebrews 10:10–"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

When we got saved **we ceased to be our own!**
1 Corinthians 6:19–20–"19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

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When we got saved, we became the **LORD'S** vessel for **HIS** use as **HE** sees fit! (*2 Timothy 1:8-12; 2:19-22*)

B. PAUL SANCTIFIED Himself Unto The LORD'S PURPOSES FOR HIM! (*Acts 26:16-23*)

There was **no question** in **PAUL'S** mind about what he would do after the **LORD** saved him. And listen, there should be **no question** in the mind of any **BELIEVER** about what he or she will do after the **LORD** saves them!

The **LORD** gave us **HIS** best while **HE** was here!

The **LORD** knows what is best for us!

We should **SANCTIFY** ourselves unto the **LORD'S** **PURPOSES** for us!

Sadly, in my many years of **CHURCH** life and **MINISTRY**, I have seen too many who have failed to **SANCTIFY** themselves unto the **LORD'S** **PURPOSES** for their life!

The result of that is that they live a life controlled by **SELF** and its desires or unto **SOMEONE ELSE** and their desires!
(e.g. parents; friends)

Before we were **SAVED** we thought life was all about us and so we lived our lives accordingly— mostly **SELFISHLY** unto ourselves!

At **SALVATION**, we should have come to an understanding that **LIFE is all about the LORD! CHRIST IS OUR LIFE!**
(Colossians 3:4; Galatians 2:20)

And so, just as **THE LORD HAS SANCTIFIED US UNTO HIMSELF** for **HIS PURPOSES**, we **SHOULD SANCTIFY OURSELVES UNTO HIM** for **HIS PURPOSES!**

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*PAUL'S AVAILABILITY IS SHOWN IN HIS SURRENDERING...
PAUL'S AVAILABILITY IS SHOWN IN HIS SANCTIFYING...*

III. PAUL'S AVAILABILITY IS SHOWN IN HIS SERVICE FOR THE LORD! (Acts 20:17-20; 27:22-25)

Romans 1:1, 9—“1 Paul a servant of Jesus Christ...9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son...”

Romans 12:1—“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

Hebrews 12:28—“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:”

A. PAUL'S SERVICE Is Seen In His Early PREACHING!

He started out immediately **PREACHING** that **CHRIST** is the **SON OF GOD!**

Acts 9:19–20—“19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. 20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.”

B. Paul's SERVICE Is Seen In His MINISTRY As A MISSIONARY!

(LUKE records PAUL'S MISSIONARY journeys in ACTS)

PAUL'S first MISSIONARY journey was with BARNABAS in Acts 13-14 departing from **ANTIOCH** and returning there again to report to them about their journey!

His second MISSIONARY journey was with SILAS in Acts 15:36-18:22

His third MISSIONARY journey in Acts 18:23-21:17.

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His arrest and final MISSIONARY journey was his voyage to ROME in Acts 21:18-28:31.

C. PAUL'S SERVICE Is Seen In His SUFFERING For CHRIST! (2 Corinthians 11:24-31)

I don't know anybody who deliberately wants to **SUFFER**. However, as **PAUL SERVED** the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** and fulfilled his **CALLING** in the **LORD**, he came to know **CHRIST** better and more deeply through **SUFFERING!**

Philippians 3:10—“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”

The **APOSTLE PETER** also had something to say about suffering while serving the **LORD!**

(1 Peter 2:19–24; 3:14-18; 4:1-2, 12-14, 19; 5:7-10)

D. PAUL'S SERVICE Is Seen In His Final PREACHING In ROME! (Acts 28:16-31)

Yes, **PAUL** finally made it to **ROME!**

He didn't get there the way that he thought he would get there.

But when he got there he was indeed **READY** to **PREACH** the **GOSPEL** to those who were in **ROME** just as he said in our text!

He, as was his custom, began preaching to the **JEWS first!**

And even when he was under house arrest in **ROME**, he continued to **PREACH** for two whole years!

He continued **SERVING THE LORD** until the end!
And he finished his course with **JOY** just as he hoped!

My what a **SERVANT OF GOD! Amen!**

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Conclusion

How is your **AVAILABILITY** when it comes to **SERVICE** for the **LORD**?

Are you **SURRENDERED** to the **WILL OF GOD** for your life whatever that may be? *“Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”*

Have you **SANCTIFIED** yourself unto **GOD** for **HIS PURPOSES**?

Do you know and believe that the **LORD** knows what’s best for your life such that you have set yourself apart unto **HIM**? Or do you see your life as being yours and so you are still trying to hang on to your life as much as possible?

Are you actually **SERVING THE LORD** and **SERVING HIM** with **JOY**?
(And no, just coming to **CHURCH** is **NOT SERVING THE LORD**!)

And doing something for the **LORD** and griping about it while you’re doing it doesn’t qualify as **SERVING HIM** with **JOY**!

Let’s be **AVAILABLE** for **GOD** for **HIS PURPOSES**!

Let’s live out **GOD’S WILL** in our life! **HIS WILL IS BEST**!