Paying Our Gospel Debts
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Introduction:
A. Rom. 1:14-16
B. A world that tries to live without faith.
   1. The 1933 Chicago World's Fair had a model city of the future. There were no churches. The reason given is there would be no need for churches in the future.
   2. There was a city in LA, CA called Century City. There are no churches in it. It is a wasteland of office buildings and tenement housing.
   3. Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) of 1996 was designed to protect individual rights in the practice of religion, actually gave local governments the right, if they found a “compelling reason,” to restrict those rights, thus leading to communities that could by vote make their communities church-free zones.
   4. Rudyard Kipling stated, "The human soul is a very lonely thing. We are born alone, we die alone, and in the depths of our souls we live alone."
   5. Those who have attempted to do so have created fertile environments for immorality and its attendant diseases, human exploitation, and individual despair.
   6. Psalm 142:4 gives us a picture of the despairing loneliness of man.
C. And yet our sad, godless culture shuns and denigrates the very God and gospel they so desperately need.
   1. You who live in the sunshine of salvation take the gospel for granted. I know this because I not only live in it, I also work with the gospel every day, and I take it for granted.
   2. We who take it for granted are in danger of losing it, because we will forget our gospel debt.

I. OUR PERILOUS TIMES
A. 2Tim. 3:1-5 - Perilous Times
   1. Unthankful - I did this on my own.
   2. High minded - I am all sufficient in my self.
   4. Covetous - Develop relationships based on what they can get out of it.
B. Is it any wonder why so many are lonely?

II. THE GOSPEL ANSWER FOR PERILOUS TIMES
A. Rom. 1:14-16 - The Gospel answer to the Romans
B. Rom. 1:14 - A Debtor - connotes responsibility
   1. One who is held to an obligation or duty - The Great Commission
      a. Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19
   2. One who owes someone - Christ - 2Cor. 5:14
   3. One who must satisfy others’ obligations before their own
      a. Matt. 16:24-26
   4. One who becomes a servant to the lender - Prov. 22:7
C. Rom. 1:15 - A Ready person is willing, eager, and reliable
   1. Ready people seek opportunities to serve; they don't wait for it.
      a. John 4:35
   2. Ready people are battle-prepared - Eph. 6:13-17
   3. Ready people know their purpose and act on it - Mark 5:19-20
D. Rom. 1:16 - Un-ashamed and wholly reliant on the Gospel
   1. The power of God confuses the world - 1Cor. 1:18-25
   2. The power of God saves the lost - Acts 13:44-49
   3. The power of God is conditional - Acts 16:30-31, 8:36-37, 2:38

Conclusion:
A. Rom. 13:7-10
   1. The Gospel puts us in debt to every human being. In order to pay this
debt we must love one another.
   2. Our world is perilous because men love themselves.
   3. Our Gospel debt requires that we make payments of love to our fellow
humankind.
   4. The Gospel, for us and those around us, removes the peril and replaces
it with power.