

Our Indebtedness

by Erlo Stegen

We are all indebted to God to proclaim the Gospel and fulfill the Great Commission, and ignoring this responsibility makes us greater fools than ourselves.

Scripture: Ezekiel 3:18-19, Matthew 16:26, Matthew 28:19-20, Romans 1:13-14

Topics: "Great Commission", "Indebtedness"

Description

Erlo Stegen emphasizes our indebtedness to share the Gospel, drawing from Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28 and Paul's acknowledgment of his debt to both Greeks and barbarians in Romans. He warns against living aimlessly without understanding our purpose, using parables to illustrate the folly of neglecting spiritual preparation for death. Stegen urges believers to not only teach others about Jesus' commands but to embody them in their own lives, reminding us that failing to do so makes us accountable for those we neglect. The sermon calls for a deep reflection on our responsibilities as Christians to spread the message of salvation and to live in accordance with God's commands.

Transcript

Matt 28:19, 20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."

Rom 1:13, 14, "Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.

14 I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise."

Jesus said in Matt 16:26, "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?". Each of us should know what is our business here on earth.

A certain man was going up and down a certain hill, walking aimlessly. When others asked him what he was doing and where he was going he replied that he didn't know himself. They realised he was mentally ill and took him to an asylum.

The shocking thing is that most people don't know what their goal in life is - they live aimlessly. Even on their deathbed, they still don't know where they are going. It is madness to live such a life.

The story is told of a certain German king who gave a staff to his court jester to find a greater fool than himself and give the staff to that person. The court jester traveled throughout the world looking for a bigger fool than himself but he couldn't find one. Eventually he returned only to find his king seriously ill. So the king called him and he reported to the king that he couldn't find a bigger fool than himself.

Then the king shared with him that he was going on an important, long journey and he doesn't know what to expect and where he was going.

The court jester answered him, "but surely o king you have prepared for this important long journey." The king answered that he never thought about his death or made any preparations. Then the court jester answered, "o king then I must hand this staff to you", and he gave him the staff. The king was a bigger fool than the court jester, for he had not prepared for his death.

Paul knew what he was about. He knew that he was indebted to proclaim the Gospel.

If you're indebted it is important that you pay your debt. You might count a debt as small and insignificant but not so in God's eyes.

Pray that God the Holy Spirit would remind you what you owe.

May we be constantly reminded of our indebtedness.

Jesus gave some last instructions before He departed, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."

Jesus did not command us to only teach them knowledge about His commands but to teach them to keep them. If you haven't done that you are indebted.

Remember that you can only teach them to keep Jesus' commands if you keep them yourself.

Ezek 3:18, 19, "When I say to a wicked man, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to dissuade him from his evil ways in order to save his life, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. 19 But if you do warn the wicked man and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his evil ways, he will die for his sin; but you will have saved yourself."

If we ignore the Great Commission then there is no greater fool than ourselves.

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