A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEBT

Rom 8: 10- 13

Defining debt is not difficult to do-
There’s always more month than money!!! Charge cards College loans Mile high monthly Mortgages……

Many Marriages are made a monetary mess- #1 cause of divorce - becomes till DEBT do us part!
It's no wonder, then, to see the popular bumper sticker that says: "I owe, I owe, so off to work I go."

Indeed all of us know what it means to be in debt to some degree ……& no matter how deeply our desire for our debt to disappear- debt has to dealt with by applying a plan of DEBT MANAGEMENT!

We live in a care-free, happy-go lucky, welfare society with little or no sense of responsibility. The same attitude has crept into Christianity.

There’s no such thing as debt free Christianity……We owe –and we owe plenty. To plenty!!!

We have both horizontal and vertical obligations to fulfill.

"Hey I thought we weren’t supposed to owe” In Chapter 13:8 ”Owe no man any thing, but to love one another”

This morning, we are dealing with a different debt.

We sing Come thou fount “Oh to grace how great a debtor” We are told to pray “Forgive us our debts”
If you were to win or earn a million dollars…it would not, it could not, pay off the debt you & I owe!

We owe an obligation to others!
Sometimes creditors will send a “Friendly reminder” to pay what you owe. Consider this mornings message to be a friendly reminder.

I. WE OWE THE SINNER THE GOSPEL

* RE: Rom 1: 14-16

3 x he says, “I am.” In verse 14 he says, “I am debtor.” In verse 15 he says, “I am ready.” In verse 16 he says, “I am not ashamed.”

A. THE PREEMINENCE OF THE GOSPEL .... “THE gospel”

Gal 1:8 "But though we, or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we
have preached unto you, let him be accursed”

B. THE **PERSON** OF THE GOSPEL .... “Christ”

Not a *plan* but a *person*, not being *reformed* but being *reborn*!

Not Mohammed, Mary or Moses

C. THE **POWER** OF THE GOSPEL..... “power”

….I’d be ashamed of the modern day mealy mouthed limp wristed sorry excuse for the gospel that can’t even keep somebody saved! *Disgrace*!

D. THE **PURPOSE** OF THE GOSPEL .... “unto salvation”

E. THE **PROSPECT** OF THE GOSPEL .... “everyone”

He said, “I’m a debtor to the wise and the unwise.” Paul’s way of saying, “I’m a debtor to everybody.”

We have the **obligation** of propagation!

1st 2 letters of gospel- “go”!

We have a NATIONAL DEBT bigger than the national debt!

A debtor to the *Lord* -The *Lost-* the *Learned* (Greeks)` and all the *Locals* (barbarians)!

We are debtors to all people of all *races* and all *places*. We are debtors to the *crude* and the *cultured*.

We are debtors to the *intellectual* and to the *ignoramus*!!

We owe it to others- somebody told you. The moment we accepted the *call* we accepted the *commission*.

* If you were cured from cancer and had the cure for cancer it would be criminal to keep quiet!

II. WE OWE THE SAINSTS OUR GIFTS

Romans 8:12 “Therefore, brethren, we are *debtors*”.

1 Cor 12 “*gifts*” & 1 Peter 4:10 “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

A. TO OUR **COMPANION**- WE OWE A GODLY **PARTNER**

Tenderness, thoughtfulness………1 Cor 7:3

“unequally yoked’ If you marry a child of the Devil , ….guess who your father in law will be?

B. TO OUR **CHILDREN**- WE OWE A GODLY **PARENT**

My children deserve a Daddy that *loves* and *leads* them!

They should not have to WORRY about me coming home drunk or WONDER if I care for them.

Do your children hear you call their name in prayer?

Do they see you putting other thins before Church? Playing the hypocrite?

C. TO OUR **CHURCH**- WE OWE A GODLY **PARISHIONER**

We owe the Church our :
1. TIME- I came to GET IN not GET OUT!

2. TITHE - Many Churches suffer from CIRRHOSIS OF THE GIVER!

   Money talks and it says a lot about you.

3. books in the Christian life- Good, Hymn, Check book

3. TALENT - Christianity is not a spectator sport!

   Each of us have an obligation……..CHOIR, NURSERY, USHERS

4. TESTIMONY

   Don’t make members bow their heads and say “Um, yeah they go to our Church”

D. TO OUR COUNTRY – We OWE A GODLY PATRIOT-

   We owe our forefathers……..those who have paid the price, plowed the path, & preserved the pattern!

   We owe it to our soldiers to pray for them and support them

III. WE OWE THE SAVIOUR ALL THE GLORY

1 Cor 6:19-20 “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? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

   You say “I don’t owe anybody anything!” Well then, You owe God an apology!

   * Willard Scott didn’t send this beautiful weather! God did!

   We owe a debt of gratitude to God!

   1 Chronicles 16:29 “Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

   Since we’re speaking of Debt- I believe we ought give God credit!!!

   Not only in appreciation, but in advance!!

   A Bank gives you credit because they believe you’re good for it! Go ahead and give God glory!

   A. GLORIFY HIM INTERNALLY ”glorify God in your Spirit”

   B. GLORIFY HIM EXTERNALLY ”body”

   Paul's never forgot what God did for Him… he gave all to God for the gospel's sake.

   Let me ask you a question. Has Jesus ever done anything for you?

   Don’t you think that you owe Him?

   He paid a debt He did not owe.

   I owed a debt I could not pay. I needed Someone to wash my sins a-way.

   And now I sing a brand new song, "Amazing Grace," Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay.
C. GLORIFY HIM *ETERNALLY* Forever we will owe Him!

Why do we cast our crowns down?

Because we owe it to him- when someone sets a crown on our head- all we see is their HANDS!

IV To Myself I OWE SOME GUIDELINES.

Budget = Bible

CONCLUSION:

Every debt has a DUE DATE!!!! This morning …Bring your account up to date!

It is your duty to do so. Perhaps God is calling you to make a commitment.