

ROMANS 1:13-15

PRAY: That God would give you eagerness and ready you to read His Word and share it.

REST: List out the things that you feel obligated in today—financially, relationally, with your time, etc—and ask God to show you how to make Him the priority in each of those areas.

READ: Through the section once. Read through it again, out loud, and look up any words that stand out to you. Read it in a variety of translations, if possible, and compare how each relates this portion of Paul's letter. Read it again and keep what you have learned in mind as you answer the following questions.

Consider & Respond to these questions:

How is Jesus clear in this section, even though it does not mention Him by name?

What does this section indicate about disciples?

How does this depict the relationship we are called to have with others, especially with other disciples of Jesus?

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QUESTIONS FROM SUNDAY

Reflecting on this Sunday's teaching, respond to these questions:

Have you previously regarded strong relationships in your church community as a requirement for your walk with Jesus? Why or why not? What do you think after reading the passages from Sunday?

As we read over the various scriptures on Sunday, were there people that came to mind from whom you are “reaping a harvest”, with whom you are “building a temple”, or that you will be presenting to Christ as a “crown of worship”? If so, how will you continue fostering these relationships? If not, who do you feel you can begin pouring into?

Select at least two of the “one another” statements covered on Sunday and describe how you are going to go about acting them out over the next month. If you need to look them up, you can search for the term “one another” in the New Testament at www.blueletterbible.org.

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

As Paul continues the introduction of his letter, he moves from the centrality of the Gospel, his love and desire for Christian community, even those whom he has never met, and now to his eagerness to share Jesus, receive mutual encouragement, and see a harvest produced by God's word and work in his brothers' and sisters' lives. The word Paul uses for "obligation" here literally means debt. He is a debtor to others to teach the Gospel and see fruit among them. His great debt to Jesus in the transformation of his life compels him to share that transformation and see a harvest of other transformed lives. He encourages us to do the same since it is our obligation as well. In light of the Gospel and the purpose of our community to love and encourage one another, we are obligated to cultivate and see a harvest in others. In other words, we are debtors to the Gospel just like Paul, and this debt compels us to share what we have been given.

Spiritual Labor & Harvest: Psalm 126:6; Proverbs 11:18; Isaiah 55:10-11; Hosea 10:12-13; Matthew 9:37-38; John 4:35-38; 1 Corinthians 3:5-11; Galatians 6:8-10

Obligation/Debt: Psalm 116:12-14; Matthew 6:12; Romans 8:12-17, 15:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:1-6; Philemon 1:17-20; 1 John 3:16-18

Readiness: Exodus 12:10-13, 33:18-34:2; Matthew 26:41; Acts 17:10-12; 2 Corinthians 8:8-14, 10:5-6; 2 Timothy 2:20-22; Titus 3:1-11; 1 Peter 3:14-16

As you read, some questions to think about and respond to are:

Where in your life are you obligated or indebted? How is this different from or similar to the obligation Paul is expressing? Does an "obligation" take on a different meaning when it is based on relationship?

How can you be ready and eager to preach the Gospel in and through your life? What does that look like, practically?

TO MEMORIZE: ROMANS 1:14
