

¹⁴I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish (ESV).

¹⁴I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. (KJV).

Debtor: Bound by duty or necessity to do something. A necessity imposed either by law and duty, or by reason, or by the times, or by the nature of the matter under consideration.

Paul is in possession of something he can give, as are you (v. 11).

1 Peter 3:15; 1 Timothy 2:4 – We must know what we are as Christians. Can you articulate the gospel? Why is this important? Do you know whom you have believed? Are you able to give a reason for the hope that is in you? Have you lost the fear of death and the grave? Are you ready to meet God?

Greeks and to the Babarians: Who are they?

Both to the wise and to the unwise: Who are they? [See Mars Hill and the Galatians].

Romans 3:23; 3:10; 3:19

The gospel is needed by *all*. There is no such thing as a Christian nation! Everyone will come face to face with God (John 5:19-29). *You* are a debtor to all peoples. (1 Cor. 9:20-22).

We need to know nothing of people except their need for Christ. It is a common fallacy to think otherwise. All people are lost sinners, like us, and apart from the grace of God they are lost and damned.

What implications does this have for the attractional church?

Should sermons be geared toward the “lowest common denominator?”

The Holy Spirit honors preaching and makes it efficacious.

2 Cor. 5:10-21 – Why are we compelled to evangelize? You will render an account! Knowing the terror of the Lord! “Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” (1 Cor. 9:16).