

ROMANS – LIVING BY FAITH
GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS & MAN’S REBELLION – Chapters 1-3

LESSON 4 – UNASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL – Romans 1:16-17

When was the last time you had an opportunity to share the Gospel...and failed to speak up? Speaking the Gospel by faith releases its power in you and is power to another to receive it.

Being ashamed of the Gospel is a failure to understand its power.

Paul knew that someday he would be allowed to go to Rome and he wanted the believers there to know that he was not going to be intimidated by the Roman government.

He knew the Gospel was the power of God to change lives.

Why Christians Are Sometimes Ashamed of the Gospel

We never should be, but all of us might find ourselves in a situation where we are afraid of being identified with Christ. Let’s discuss some of those reasons...

Intellectual Reasons

Paul had experienced the ridicule and mockery of the Gospel from the intellectuals of his day. In fact, he was not only laughed at but stoned, beaten and thrown in jail.

Sometimes we allow those who are more educated or eloquent to intimidate us and keep us from taking a stand for Christ.

Never forget that Scripture is very clear...anyone who comes to Christ must come to Him the same way.

Philosophical Reasons

The Gospel’s ideas are the opposite of the world’s ideas. It is not in line with any of the humanistic teachings in our world. The Gospel is absolutely on its own and is entirely different.

“The unpopularity of a crucified Christ has prompted many to present a message which is more palatable to the unbeliever, but the removal of the offense of the cross always renders the message ineffective. An inoffensive Gospel is also an inoperative Gospel. Thus Christianity is wounded most in the house of its friends.”

- Geoffrey Wilson

Social Reasons

The Bible says, “not many wise...not many mighty...not many noble” (1 Corinthians 1:26) are attracted to a Gospel that centers around one who was executed as a common criminal.

“And here we stand and we say that the most untutored, the most illiterate person in the world tonight, can listen to the same Gospel as the greatest philosopher, and by grace receive salvation. The world sits back and roars with laughter.”

- D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Moral Reasons

Galatians 5:11 talks about, “the offense of the cross.” There are many in our day who find Christianity unattractive because of its emphasis on sin and the atoning blood of Jesus.

Jesus gave a strong warning to those who would not have the courage to be identified with Him and His Gospel. That warning was that He might one day be ashamed of them.

Mark 8:38, “If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

Why Paul Was Not Ashamed of the Gospel

Paul finished verse 15 by saying he was ready to preach the gospel. We can substitute the word **BECAUSE** for the word **FOR**. So Paul essentially says he is ready to preach the Gospel because he is not ashamed of it. He then goes on to give us eight reasons why he is not ashamed of the Gospel...

It Tells the Good News

This is the news everyone has been waiting for...the good news of the Gospel. If that good news is the message that Jesus died for our sins, was buried and rose again...why should anyone be ashamed of the Gospel.

It Explains Salvation

To be saved is to be set free from the power and punishment of sin. The Gospel explains our salvation past, present and future.

It Declares God’s Purpose

Salvation through Jesus Christ is God’s purpose for those who are lost. When you share the Gospel with an unsaved person, you bring that person one step closer to realizing God’s purpose for them.

It Demonstrates God’s Power

The Gospel is not ABOUT the power of God...it IS the power of God. The Gospel is the power of God to save us and change us.

It Includes Everyone

The Gospel is for everyone. Whoever believes and confesses Him as Lord and Savior will be saved (Romans 10:9-10). Every category of people is included in verse 16. Paul makes it abundantly clear that everyone needs Jesus.

It Reveals God’s Plan

“When humans invent religion they either invent something that makes them self-righteous, imagining they can save themselves by their own good works or wisdom...or they invent something that excuses their behavior so they can commit the evil they desire.”

- James Montgomery Boice

No person could have invented the plan of salvation. Only a God with a perfect heart of love could have chosen to redeem us the way He did.

It Imputes God's Righteousness

Righteousness is one of the key concepts of the book of Romans. It appears over fifty times throughout the book. In Romans 1:17 Paul says that a righteousness from God has been revealed. Then over the next couple of chapters he proves that we cannot be righteous without a relationship with God. It is the power of God that imputes righteousness to those who can never achieve it on their own.

It Affirms Our Faith

The message of the Gospel, when shared and then received, is the affirmation of faith. It takes faith to share the Gospel and it takes faith to receive the Gospel.

In our day, God does not speak to us directly from heaven, but He comes out of the faith of one heart into the faith of another.

As we've already seen, Paul wrote that the Gospel is for everyone who believes. Faith must be exercised for anyone to receive salvation.

Paul is ready to preach the Gospel even in Rome. He is a debtor to the Roman Christians and will not fail to pay his debt. Why? Because he is not ashamed of the Gospel of justification by faith.