

THE GOSPEL

ROMANS 1:16-17

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¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Introduction:

In these 2 verses, we are given one of the greatest summaries of the Gospel ever written.

In these verses we can see a clear declaration of God's power and purpose in the Gospel message.

Paul's statements about the Gospel begin in a strange fashion. Out of the blue he tells us that he is not "ashamed of the Gospel." In our day, this sounds kind of awkward. Why should he be ashamed? Perhaps a little understanding of that culture will help us to understand why some might have been ashamed of preaching the message that Paul had been given. There are at least 4 reasons why some would have been ashamed.

- Because of the moral condition of that day. Nero was the Emperor of Rome. He was a wicked, degenerate man. The city of Rome was a cesspool of sin and wicked living. The Gospel Paul preached was diametrically opposed to everything Rome was.
- Because Paul was a Jew. Jews were considered by many to be a sub-human race. They were fit for nothing but to be despised, mistreated, and enslaved. Ordinary Jews would have been tempted to shy away from non-Jews.
- Because the Gospel Paul was preaching was almost unbelievable. Think of it, the Savior Paul was preaching was a male member of the despised Jewish race, He was said to be the Savior of man, He claimed to be the Son of God, yet He claimed to be a man. His death was different than other man in that He died on a Roman cross, a symbol of shame, but in dying this death, He was said to have died for all men. And, if that wasn't enough, this man was said to have risen from the dead the third day after His death. To many people, the claims of the Gospel were just too bizarre to believe.
- Because everywhere Paul went preaching the cross, he was ridiculed, cast out, imprisoned, or

treated cruelly. Many would not have been able to endure the shame of the cross

It is easy to see why Paul would want to be clear about his commitment to the Gospel message. He would want these people to know that they were hearing from a man who believed his message and was willing to pay the price to share it.

Note

1. THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

A. Paul tells us that the Gospel is the "power of God". The word "power" comes from a word that refers to the "*might, energy, force and strength that dwell within God.*"

B. God could have revealed His power against sin in any way that He chose. He could have wiped men from the face of the earth. He could have done anything that He wanted, because He is the all-powerful God. He can do anything! Therefore, it is a blessing to notice that when the Lord moved to do something about sin, He exercised His power in sending men the Gospel of grace.

C. Notice Paul's message in the "gospel of Christ."

There are many different gospels being preached in our day.

- There's the gospel of religion that says, "Turn over a new leaf."
- There's the gospel of materialism that says "Your worth is determined by what you have. Gain is the goal of life."
- There's the gospel of liberalism that says "I'm ok and you're ok. God accepts us like we are and will take us to Heaven if Heaven really exists."
- There's the gospel of society that says, "Do as you please because life is short."

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE GOSPEL

A. Why did God go to such lengths for men?
Why did He give up His Son to die on the cross for the sins of humanity?

The simple answer is that He loves us.

John 3:16

¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The word salvation means “safety, preservation, deliverance.”

B. The purpose of the gospel is the salvation of the lost.

3. THE PLAN OF THE GOSPEL (VS. 16)

Romans 1:16

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

A. It is to “everyone that believeth.”

B. It’s perfectly clear that biblical salvation does not involve complicated religious rituals or ornate and elaborate religious exercises. Salvation is the product of faith and faith alone!

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.

This is the point where many people stumble. People like to do things for themselves. They like to feel that they have a part of everything in their lives. However, in the matter of salvation, the sinner can have no part.

4. THE PLEDGE OF THE GOSPEL

A. The product of the Gospel is "righteousness."

Notice the words: "from faith to faith."

This refers to the fact that the believer's life is to be one of faith in God, and as life is lived in faith, the righteousness of God is revealed in the believer's life from "beginning faith" to "ending faith."

As this verse concludes, faith is to be the way of life for the child of God.

Close:

Have we trusted in the Gospel of Christ for our salvation?

Are you sharing the Gospel like Paul?

Are you ashamed of the Gospel?

It is powerful and purposeful.