

**Attitude Towards The Gospel
Are You Ashamed of it?**

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Rom. 1:14-17

The right attitudes are absolutely necessary. They are necessary for unity in a local congregation.

Attitude defined: A state of mind or a feeling, disposition.

In other words, One's perception of something.

Religiously we can have an attitude that brings blessings from God, or one that brings disfavor from Him. We studied our attitudes towards God and Jesus Christ, now we shall study our attitudes towards the gospel.

Attitude Towards The Gospel

Today it is declared by some religious teachers that truth is a relative thing, and cannot be understood. They think it is foolishness to live according to the word of God and they call them "legalists" who do try to follow God's word.

1 Cor. 1:18-21, *"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."*

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He addressed this attitude of those who did not understand Him, or rather, who did not want to understand Him.

John 8:43-44, *"Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."*

John 8:37, *"I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you."*

They chose to believe they would be saved just because they were of Abraham's seed, so they were pretty lax concerning the Law of Moses. They wanted the easy way to heaven. Certainly they weren't about to listen to something new. And the Jewish leaders weren't about to give up their leadership positions.

Religious leaders of the world make the claim the Bible is not relevant today, that it needs to be "modified" to a new and changing world. Thus, they teach a social gospel.

They also look for their own easy way and they have a shock awaiting them at the Judgment, as well.

They resort to name-calling and refer to anyone who tries to live by the scriptures as "uneducated". They call themselves Bible scholars, yet they themselves are ignorant of God's word. They give themselves "religious" titles and get upset if you don't use these titles with their name (such as, Reverend, Father, etc).

Matt. 23:9, "*And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.*"

Some boast of their intelligence and educational accomplishments, but are ignorant when it comes to knowing what God wants.

They instead preach what people like to hear. Paul said:

- Gal. 1:10, "*For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.*"
- 1 Cor. 9:16, "*For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!*"

Why is it any different today? Why don't people today feel the woe of which Paul spoke when they don't preach the gospel?

John taught the importance of God's word. 2 John 1:9-11, "*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*"

The religious world doesn't like the word "doctrine". To them it is a dirty word. They just want everyone to get along so they don't preach any doctrine that might offend someone.

Yet, John said if we don't abide in the doctrine of Christ, God is not in us.

Paul warned the Galatian brethren of not accepting anything other than God's word. Gal. 1:7-9, "... *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. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*"

To leave out the doctrine of Christ is to preach another gospel.

We need to prove everything we hear to see if it is God's word. 1 John 4:1, "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*"

If we cannot find it in the Bible, reject it.

I once heard a religious man tell another man who disagreed with him, that he was the educated one in God's word and should not be challenged on anything he preaches by anyone else. Such arrogance!

He just didn't want to be shown that he was wrong, thus he attacked the other's knowledge and character.

2 Tim. 2:15, "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*"

Paul's attitude towards the gospel.

As Paul began his grand epistle to the Romans, he wrote of his desire to see them.

Notice his diligent prayers toward that end. Rom. 1:9-10, "*For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.*"

He did not wish for personal prosperity monetarily; he wanted those in Rome to prosper in the knowledge of God's word.

He had a desire to encourage them through mutual edification. Rom. 1:11-12, "*For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.*"

He planned to come to them so that he might have some fruit among them. Rom. 1:13, "*Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.*"

No, Paul wasn't talking about picking fruit. He was talking about the end result of his preaching the gospel to them — that some or many of them would obey the gospel of Christ that he preached unto them.

His desire to see them was related to the gospel.

Which he served as an apostle of Christ. Rom. 1:1, "*Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,*"

Of which he was not ashamed. Rom. 1:16, "*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.*"

Are we ever ashamed of the gospel of Christ? Are we embarrassed to tell others about Jesus?

Could this be a reason why many are not active in personal evangelism?

What is our attitude concerning the gospel of Christ?

Perhaps by examining how and why Paul was not ashamed of the gospel, we might be more diligent in our efforts to share the good news of Jesus Christ ourselves.

Paul was not ashamed of the gospel.

How he was not ashamed...

He felt obligated to preach the gospel to everyone. To Greeks and barbarians (non-Greeks), to wise and unwise. Rom. 1:14, "*I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.*"

His obligation to preach was due partly to the favor God had given him. 1 Cor. 15:9-10, "*For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*"

Paul really felt bad because of what he had done to the Christians. He didn't feel that he was worthy enough to be an apostle; yet because of the grace of God in helping him realize his mistake, he felt that he needed to work all the harder for the Lord to make up for what he had done.

Jesus chose him to be an apostle, so he felt obligated to fulfil that duty. He was very thankful for the opportunity that God had given

him to work in the ministry of teaching the gospel of Christ. 1 Tim. 1:12-14, *“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”*

Paul was ready to preach the gospel in Rome. Whatever opportunity was given him, he would take it! Rom. 1:15, *“Romans 1:15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.”*

Even though he knew his life would end at Rome.

Paul showed that he was not ashamed by his willingness and preparedness to preach the gospel anytime and anywhere!

Why he was not ashamed.

It is the power of God to salvation for all of us. Rom. 1:16, *“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.”*

It bothers me when I hear people say, “Don’t preach to me!”

Jesus told His disciples to preach from the housetops.

- Matt. 10:27, *“What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.”*
- Mark 16:15-16, *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”*
- Acts 5:42, *“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”*
- Rom. 10:15, *“...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”*
- 2 Tim. 4:2, *“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”*

No, it’s not always easy to spread God’s word when the majority of the world does not readily accept someone teaching them the word of God.

Yet, it is God's command for us to preach and it is His power to save. There are souls out there that are ripe for the word of God being taught to them. They will be lost if we don't find them.

Preach the gospel for it tells of Christ, the power of God and wisdom of God. 1 Cor. 1:23-24, *"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."*

Paul was not ashamed to preach the gospel because it reveals the righteousness of God in salvation.

How the just shall live by faith. Rom. 1:17, *"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."*

Paul was not ashamed to preach the gospel because of its power and message. He was not ashamed to preach the gospel to anyone willing to listen!

From Paul, then, we should note several reasons why...

We should not be ashamed of the gospel.

The gospel remains the same. It is still God's power to save. It is still the power to produce faith in the hearts of those who hear it. Rom. 10:17, *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

It is still the power to produce fruit in those who hear and know the truth. Col. 1:5-6, *"For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth."*

It still reveals God's righteousness in salvation; how Jesus died for our sins. 1 Cor. 15:1-4, *"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"*

It still reveals how we can receive remission of our sins in Jesus through faith, repentance, and baptism. Acts 2:36-38, *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now*

when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Brothers and sisters, the passing of time has not weakened the power and message of the gospel of Christ!

The need remains the same. Souls still are in need of salvation.

All have sinned. Rom. 3:23, *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*

The wages of sin is death. Rom. 6:23, *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

Both wise and foolish, both near and afar. Jesus is still the only way to the Father for all. John 14:6, *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man** cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*

His gospel still needs to be preached to every creature. Mark 16:15-16, *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”*

The passing of time has not lessened the need and scope of the gospel of Christ!

From the example of Paul, we can know the proper attitude and conduct we should have in preaching the gospel of Christ.

Those not ashamed of the gospel will feel a sense of obligation...

To God who saved them.

Are we not thankful for what God has done for us? Will this not affect how we live our lives? Gal. 2:20, *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*

We should have a sense of obligation to those who are lost.

Are we not concerned about their eternal destiny should they die in their sins? Will this not move us to do something?

2 Cor. 5:11, “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”

Those not ashamed of the gospel will feel an obligation similar to Paul’s. Rom. 1:14, “I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.”

Those not ashamed of the gospel will make themselves ready...

To share the gospel as they have opportunity.

If uncertain what to say, they will learn it (even relearn it).

- 1 Pet. 3:15, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”
- Heb. 5:12, “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.”

Those who prepare themselves will not rest until they have found some way whereby they can communicate the gospel to others. Then they will be looking for “open doors” to teach others.

1 Cor. 3:5, “Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?”

Just as the early Christians, we have an obligation to spread the gospel as we have opportunity.

Rom. 10:14-15, “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

Some of you may feel inadequate to teach, but you can still invite. Acts 10:24, “And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and he had called together his kinsmen and near friends.”

Those not ashamed of the gospel will make themselves ready like Paul. Rom. 1:15, “So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.”

Conclusion.

Are you ashamed of the gospel of Christ? You may be, if you are not doing anything to share the gospel yourself; if you are not involved in helping others to spread the gospel.

You have no reason to be ashamed; it is still the same gospel with power to save the souls of men, revealing the wonderful righteousness of God to save men.

May we never be ashamed of the gospel, or of Jesus Himself.

- Mark 8:38, *“Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”*
- 1 Pet. 4:16, *“Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”*

