

Not Ashamed Of The Gospel

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Rom. 1:14-17

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

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.”*

His 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.”*

His plans to come, 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.”*

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,”*

The good news concerning Jesus. Rom. 1:3, *“Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh,”*

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? Embarrassed to tell others about Jesus? Could this be a reason why many are not active in personal evangelism?

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.

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 due partly to favor God had shown 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.”*
- 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.”*

He 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 his preference was to preach where Jesus had not been proclaimed before. Rom. 15:20, *“Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man’s foundation.”*

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 everyone who believes, both Jew and Greek (Gentiles). 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.”*

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.”

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.”*

How God is both just and the justifier of those who believe in Jesus. Rom. 3:21-26, *“But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”*

Because of its power and message, Paul 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.

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.”*

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.”

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.”*
- Acts 22:16, *“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”*

The passing of time has not weakened the power and message of the gospel of Christ!

The need remains the same.

Souls 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. 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 of...

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.”*

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.”*

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.”*

They will not rest until they have found some method, aids, or tools, 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?”*

To spread the gospel as they have opportunity.

They may not be in a position to go, but they can still send.

- 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!”*
- 3 John 1:5-8, *“Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: Because that for his name’s sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.”*

They may not be in a position to teach, but they 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.”*
- Acts 10:33, *“Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.”*

Then they will be looking for “open door”⁴ to send.

Phil. 4:15-16, *“Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.”*

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.
- 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.”*

