

I am not Ashamed of the Gospel

Romans 1:16-17

We have read a wonderful and precious passage of Scripture this morning. In fact, these verses ought to be dear to the heart of every believer. They present the Gospel of Christ the Lord. They reveal the good news: the message of the birth, death, resurrection, and literal return of our Lord; they proclaim the glad tidings of salvation.

No other message will affect your life and eternal destiny as will the Gospel. There are many pieces of literature one could never read and there would be no eternal consequences, but this message must be heard and heeded if we are to receive salvation and inherit eternal life.

For many it is a foolish tale; one of a virgin birth, a man who gave His life for others, resurrected the third day, ascended back to heaven, now seated at the right hand of the Father. The Gospel is not a fairy tale, but the means of bringing lost men to a saving knowledge of Christ. As we consider these verses, discovering the [certainties](#) related to the nature of the Gospel, I want to preach on the thought: [I am not Ashamed of the Gospel](#).

I. The Gospel is Precious (16a) – [For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ](#). Paul had received that which was precious to his heart. He had believed on the Lord Jesus. He received life, the abundance of grace, and the joy associated with salvation. The gospel changed his life and gave him hope. Paul knew the significance of the gospel and it was precious to him.

- He declares he is [not ashamed of the gospel](#). That word ashamed has the idea of “*experiencing a painful feeling or sense of loss of status because of some particular event or activity, to be embarrassed, hesitant, be ashamed, be afraid, or lack courage to stand up for something.*”ⁱ There was no such shame in Paul concerning the gospel. I am sure there were many things he regretted, but receiving the gospel wasn’t one of them!

- No greater treasure do we have than the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I have received that precious gift of eternal life, abundant mercy and grace, with joy unspeakable. Do you realize what we have? [John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. We hold in our hands the Living Word.](#) 1 John 1:1 - [That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life.](#) The Written Word took on the form of a man and became the Living Word. He offered Himself the atoning sacrifice for sin, providing the means of salvation from sin and reconciliation to God! There is absolutely no doubt, the gospel is precious!

II. The Gospel has Power (16b) – *for it is the power of God unto salvation*. The word **power** comes from the Greek word *dunamis*, from which we get our word dynamite. It refers to *the might, force, strength, the very power of God*. We have the power of God in the Gospel of Christ. I have never experienced anything that compares to the power of the Gospel. God can take a lost sinner, save him by His grace, and create a new creature in him. *2 Cor.5:17 – Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

- All of the devices and programs man has developed cannot change man's heart, but the Gospel, the power of God, has that ability. *1 Cor.1:18 - For the preaching of the cross is to them which perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.* We can claim that power as believers. *2 Cor.10:4 - For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty, through the pulling down of strongholds.* This isn't a message of turning over a new leaf, church membership, God accepting all as they are, but a message of lost men coming to Christ in repentance and receiving salvation through the power of God!

- All the programs and renewal processes offered by man may bring temporal change, but only the gospel has the power to bring eternal change and life! The heart of man's problem is a problem of the heart. Until the heart is changed, there is no genuine change. We cannot receive that in ourselves, but Christ can bring eternal, effective change through the gospel.

III. The Gospel has Purpose (16b) - *for it is the power of God unto salvation*. The coming of Christ to this earth in the form of a man, bearing our sin and shame on the cross, and triumphing over the grave had purpose. It was not an event that went terribly wrong. He did not fail to achieve His goal. Christ came to die for our sin. The purpose of the Gospel is salvation; our deliverance, preservation, and security through God's grace.

- God loved us enough to send His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sin. It is through the Gospel message that we receive salvation. It provides complete deliverance from condemnation. *Rom.8:1 – There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* God desires to redeem lost men from an eternity in Hell, forever condemned because of sin and offer salvation in His Son. He, through His love, provided the opportunity and means of salvation, thus changing our eternal destiny.

- Man's greatest need was met in Christ! That is the theme of the Gospel message, salvation of sinners through faith in Jesus Christ. I thank God I was presented the Gospel message that I might be saved!

IV. The Gospel Has Provision (16b) – for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. The Gospel has been given to everyone that believeth. There has never been a soul that lived that Christ didn't die for. The Gospel message is extended to all. We can read of the miraculous accounts of salvation in the Bible: Mary Magdalene, she who had seven devils; Zacchaeus, a tax collector consumed with wealth and greed; the Malefactor on the cross; the Ethiopian eunuch; Paul himself.

- Salvation is available to whosoever. John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 1:12 – But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: That includes the drunk, the drug addict, the harlot, the church member, the politician, the financial planner, the rich and famous, and every one that believeth! There is no credit check, no background check, no social or financial requirements; only an open heart. 1 Tim.1:15 – This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

V. The Gospel is Productive (17) – For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. The gospel creates righteousness in sinners. The reception of the gospel has been changing lives for some 2,000 years. There has never been a need to restructure the Gospel. Many today are searching for a new or different way, but the Gospel has endured. It can and does change men from separated sinners into sanctified saints. The Gospel will produce results. Nothing else can take a lost sinner with no hope and provide salvation that gives eternal hope. The gospel doesn't present a good way or even the best way of salvation and eternal life; it presents the only way!

- I have talked with folks who honestly believe they will receive Christ when they feel as if they can live a life good enough to please Him. I had to share with them, that day will never come. It is impossible for us to live pleasing and acceptable unto God in and of ourselves. In salvation we receive the righteousness of God and walk with Him by faith. My good works didn't save me and the work I do today doesn't maintain my salvation. I was saved by faith and I continue to live by faith. Faith in Christ and receiving the truth of the gospel by faith is the only means of salvation!

Conclusion: We have a precious gift in the Gospel of Christ. I hope you realize what we have. It is the power of God unto salvation. Have you trusted Christ for salvation? You too can have that joy that comes from the Gospel. I must say however, **The Gospel is Personal**. You must decide whether you will come to Christ by faith. The offer is extended. How will you respond?

ⁱ Adapted from Mattoon's Treasures – Treasures from Romans.