

# **“Not Ashamed of the Gospel”**

## **Romans 1:14-17**

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### **I. Introduction**

- A. This text is no doubt the most important in Paul’s letter to the Romans and perhaps in all literature!
  - 1. In it, we find the theme of this epistle and the essence of Christianity.
    - a) It’s the book of Romans
  - 2. It tells us how a man or woman may become right with God (v.17)
  - 3. For we, in our natural state, are not right with God.
  - 4. The message of Romans is how we can be right with God
    - a) Paul calls it the “Gospel” (v.15)
    - b) We see three strong personal statements Paul makes about his desire to preach this Gospel (vv. 14-16)
    - c) Paul’s spotlight on the Gospel

### **II. Paul’s Burden (Romans 1:14)**

- A. “I am a debtor” (v.14)
  - 1. In what way was Paul a “debtor”?
    - a) He didn’t go on a shopping spree!
    - b) Paul was in debt because he had been saved, and he knew the good news.
    - c) “I am under obligation”
    - d) Illustration- Most people go through life living as if the world owes them
    - e) As Christians, we have a debt to the whole world.
  - 2. “Greeks and Barbarians” as “wise” and “unwise” (v. 14)
    - a) To the Greeks, only two kinds of people
      - 1) “Greeks” and everybody else (Barbarians)
    - b) To the Jews, only two kinds of people
      - 1) Jews and everybody else (Gentiles)
    - c) In God’s mind, there are only two kinds of people (the saved and the lost)
    - d) “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (1 John 5:12).
      - 1) Illustration- Story of the lepers in 2 Kings

### **III. Paul’s Boldness (Romans 1:15)**

- A. “I am ready” (v.15)
  - 1. Paul was eager to pay his debt
  - 2. How?

- a) By preaching the Gospel
- B. What exactly is the Gospel?
  1. Literally “the good news”
    - a) It’s not “good views”
    - b) It’s not a creed
    - c) It’s not a code of conduct
    - d) It’s not a ceremony
  2. What is the “good news”?
    - a) “...I declare unto you the gospel...” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
    - b) Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures
    - c) He was buried (He really died)
    - d) He rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures
  3. Paul was eager to preach not a plan or a philosophy, but a person.

#### IV. Paul’s Belief (Romans 1:16-17)

- A. “I am not ashamed” (v.16)
  1. It’s sad that so many are ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.
  2. Why?
    - a) “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness” (1 Corinthians 1:18).
    - b) “We preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness” (1 Corinthians 1:23).
  3. Are you ashamed of the Gospel? If you are, you are ashamed of Jesus!
    - a) There are some things we should be ashamed of, but not Jesus and the good news.
  4. What is the Gospel?
    - a) (1 Corinthians 15)
- B. Why was Paul unashamed?
  1. Its source (God)
    - a) “Power of God” (v.16)
    - b) It’s God’s idea
    - c) Man can’t save himself
    - d) Man’s way is right in his own eyes
    - e) God’s way—Jesus
      - i. The narrow gate
      - ii. “The way, the truth, the life” (John 14:6)
  2. Its nature (power) (v.16)
    - a) Rome was into power, but sinful and weak
      - i. A cesspool of iniquity
    - b) The Gospel is the one message that has the power to change men’s hearts.
    - c) The power of God comes to powerless men
    - d) “Power” is the Greek “dunamis”

- i. Dynamite, dynamic, dynamo
  - e) “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17).
    - i. Paul himself (Acts 9)
    - ii. From a persecutor to a preacher
    - iii. God’s power changed my life
- 3. Its purpose (salvation) (v.16)
  - a) Deliverance or rescue from sin
  - b) Sin’s past penalty
  - c) Sin’s present power
  - d) Sin’s future presence (Heaven)
    - i. Also, Satan, self, second death, Hell
- 4. Its scope (everyone) (v.16)
  - a) The wise
    - i. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)
  - b) The unwise (Barbarians) (v.14)
    - i. Uneducated, ordinary people
  - c) Religious people (the Jews) (v.16)
  - d) Everybody, everywhere (also Greek) (v.16)
    - i. Illustration- Nicodemus
    - ii. The woman of Samaria
      - a. (John 8)
  - e) John said, “Go ye into the entire world and preach...”
- 5. Its reception (believeth) (v.16)
  - a) It’s not behave, it’s believe
    - i. (John 3:16)
    - ii. What is believe? It’s faith!
      - a. “By grace” (Ephesians 2:8-9)
      - b. Faith is the hand of the heart
      - c. We all exercise faith
- 6. Its revelation (God’s righteousness) (v.17)
  - a) Romans is an exposition of (Habakkuk 2:4)
  - b) Literally “a righteousness from God”
  - c) Illustration- Paul (Philippians 3:9)
    - i. “A righteousness which comes from God”
    - ii. It’s the only way for you to be right with God
    - iii. “From faith unto faith” (v.17)

## V. Conclusion

- A. Believe the Gospel
- B. Live the Gospel
- C. Share the Gospel