

Not Shamed # 2- Of The Gospel

Romans 1:14-17

Intro: In Romans 5:

- vs. 2 – By Jesus- by faith we *“rejoice in hope of the glory of God”*
- vs. 5 - *“hope maketh not ashamed!”*

Life – hopes fall short. Life disappoints.

The key to facing the disappointments of life is knowing we will never be disappointed in Christ.

In Jesus – We will never be ashamed.

Today – **Our phrase** – **“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ”**

This is one of the greatest tensions and tests for believers in this world.

I would say, for “our times”, but the truth is that it has always been a problem.

- Our victory in this issue will dynamically define and drive our lives.
- Our failure will leave us ineffective with our influence comprised.
 - **In fact, the irony is, if we are ashamed of the gospel of Jesus, we ourselves will one day sooner than later be ashamed.**

The gospel in the real world.

Will it work? Will it let us down?

Is it embarrassing?

I. Responsibility. 1:14

Paul:

vs. 14 - “I am debtor both...”

NIV –

*“For I have **a great sense of obligation** to people in both the civilized world and the rest of the world, to the educated and uneducated alike.”*

Warning:

When our interest is totally “me” and “mine” rather than “Him and “them”, something is wrong.

Example - “Am I my brother’s keeper” – Murderer Cain- Genesis 4.

The heart of God:

"For God so loved the world that he gave..." John 3:16

When We are like Jesus, or better, when Jesus is working in us, we will love, give...

Jesus -

John 17:18 -

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

John 20:21

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

After The Resurrection – Commission –

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them..." Matthew 28:19

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15

"ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

Personal Responsibility -

vs. 15 - *"as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel"*

NIV –

"That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome."

We are part of God's answer for the world!

II. A Real Problem. 1:15b-16a

Two extremes:

- *People too far gone, too bad for the gospel, or*
- *Those too _____ (good, rich, powerful...)*

"You that are at Rome also" – Context/Conflict:

Rome: Cf. - Washington, D.C.

Seat of power. Position. Raw Power. Seemingly limitless privilege.

Intellectuals. Rulers of the empire.

Will the gospel – Jesus – really work in the real world?

People smarter than us? People more powerful than us? More successful?

School?

Work?

College campuses and Universities?

New York? D.C.? L.A.?

Europe?

World?

“ashamed of the gospel”

- *“Disadvantaged?”*
- *Disfigured?*
- *Embarrassed?*
- *Fear of shame and humiliation?”*

How? Why?

In just a moment, ***Paul will reveal to the powers that be the power of the Gospel!***

He will confront those who live and act as if they are “god”, (in their case literally- Caesar – being hailed as “god”) – with the God who is!

Possible Contributing Factors - fear, “shame” of the gospel

1. Confusion as to the meaning of “gospel”.

“gospel”= “eu”+ “angellion”

“Heralding of an empire worthy message”

Breaking News! *Something Happened!*

“gospel” is good news, not good advice.

All other religions, philosophies, “answers” – advice. Instructions. If our approach to life- the world – **is about us, them... not news!**

If us versus them – we might be overwhelmed, out argued, ill-prepared, poorly matched...

“gospel” – Not advice. NEWS!

Breaking News: SOMETHING HAPPENED!

2. Ignorance of the “*The gospel of Jesus Christ*”

WHAT GOD HAS DONE! BREAKING KINGDOM NEWS!

Jesus died. Jesus was buried. Jesus rose again. Jesus lives!

“Come see. Go tell. Witnesses!”

- Not to prove we’re right and they’re wrong... Not to advance beliefs.
- **TO PROCLAIM THE NEWS THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING!**

3. Lack of *Personal knowledge of Jesus!*

“I know whom I have believed...”

- Those who have not by faith heard and accepted the news- the gospel- Jesus – obviously can’t understand.
 - **Even the disciples- heard but had trouble believing – until they saw Him for themselves!!!**
- Those who have, do. Should.

4. We are more focused on/worried about/preoccupied with ourselves than them or Him.

III. REVELATION. “the gospel of Christ” vs.16-17

“ready... eager... Not ashamed of the gospel of Christ!”

Paul - Let me explain:

“it is”

Not- “contains” “or “will make possible”

But “it is the power of God”

“the power” – “dynamis” –

mighty, miracle working power!

“of God” –

God’s provision. God’s Plan. God’s answer.

“unto salvation”

Every one!

“believeth”

examples- Jew first (historically) to the Greek

“righteousness of God revealed” –

Each has their own answer to be “right”. All will eventually fail!

Condemned already. Failed already.

The answer God has provided- the way to be right for every person-
is possible for every person!

Not ashamed.

Not afraid. Won’t be embarrassed. No disadvantaged or “iffy”.

Jesus – will not fail. My hope will not be shamed or let down!

**1. Not a single one of you will trust Jesus as your Savior and be
turned down, disappointed!**

**2. Every single one who trusts Jesus by faith and receives Hi, the gift
of eternal life, will be saved!**

3. EVERY SINGLE ONE WHO DOESN’T – Lost Forever!

- **Jesus is the answer – God’s answer!**
- **Jesus is my answer.**
- **Jesus is their answer.**

Then. Now. Always.

Questions:

1. Who needs the gospel of Jesus?
2. Will it really save? Really?
3. What are we going to do about it?

Ashamed?

Witnesses? Say it. Show it. **“I am not shamed...”**