

SALT Church

Romans 1:8-17

“Not Ashamed”

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“The Greatest Book Ever Written”

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Intro: (Romans 1:1-7)

1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God ² which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, ³ concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, ⁴ and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. ⁵ Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, ⁶ among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

⁷To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:8-17

⁸First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.

- I wonder why?
 - They must have been involved in some type of great spiritual movement that had led to (revival like changes within Rome)
- Also, notice that the 1st thing that Paul does is gives thanks for the Roman church.
 - Why?
 - Their faith has brought about change, a good change.
 - Their faith is not something that they have amassed but rather it is the fruit of lives that have submitted to God.
 - The fruit of faith is visible part which leads me to my next observation.
- Their robust faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world.
 - This also leads me to think that the Roman Church was mission minded, they had to be a sending church. (no social media, no TV, only their reputation)
- What I am trying to say is that their faith was visible
 - True faith always produces something visible.
- Paul is thankful for them through Jesus Christ
 - **Meaning** that they cannot take credit for what God has done in and through them.
 - **Meaning** that it is by grace that they are saved.
 - God initiated their faith
 - **Meaning** they didn't find God
 - God found them (this will be developed more later)

- Ephesians 2 says that it is by grace that you have been saved and not through works least any man boast
 - We can't boast about being a believer, we can only be thankful that we are a believer.
- **"I thank my God through Jesus Christ"**
 - The fact that Paul makes God personal by saying "my God" would have upset the Jews.
 - In their mind God is so holy that man could never enjoy this kind of personal relationship.
 - Keep in mind that they would not say Yhweh believing that it was to holy to mention.
 - **"through Jesus Christ"** means through Jesus the Messiah.
 - Clearly Paul is stating his belief in Jesus as the promised Messiah.
- The two big take aways from verse 8 are simply this:
 - **A thankful heart is the mark of a child of God**
 - **Meaning** that they have found satisfaction in Him and not in the things of this world.
 - **Faith is something that is seen**
 - Faith produces tangible evidence that is clearly seen by all.

⁹ For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, is my witness *as to how without ceasing I make mention of you,*¹⁰ always in my prayers earnestly asking, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

- Why would God need to be his witness before the Roman church?

- (Answer) They don't know him.
 - They have never seen him.
 - So, only God could be a true witness of his unceasing prayers for them.
 - But they do know God, thus Paul calls upon God to be a witness for him with the Roman church.

So, Paul longs to be a part of the ministry in Rome but he is not waiting on his arrival to actively take part in the ministry in Rome.

- Paul knows that “the prayers of a righteous man avail much”
- Paul knows that when we pray, God hears our prayers and if our request line up with God's will they are instantly answered.
 - So, there is this ministry of prayer that only God can see from Paul for the Roman church and in this ministry,
 - Paul is crying out to God for the Roman church and as a result blessings are flowing to the Roman church
 - and only Paul and God know how impactful those prayers are.
- Why is Paul praying so much for this church that he has never visited?
 - Because he longs to visit this wonderful church.
 - Why?
 - The answer is found in the next verse.

¹¹ For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be strengthened; ¹² that is, to be mutually encouraged, *while among you*, by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

- **There is humility in that sentence.**
 - Paul is a central figure in the New Testament.
 - Known for his brilliant mind and his boldness Paul says, “mutually encouraged.”
 - **Meaning** that Paul fully expects to receive something from them.
 - **Meaning** that they have something to offer this Apostle of Jesus Christ.

No matter how long you have been in Christ, no matter how mature you are in Christ, you can always be encouraged by someone else’s faith.

¹³ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may have some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.

- The only thing or being that would have prevented Paul from reaching Rome is God
- My assumption is that the other churches like Corinth needed his attention and direction.
 - We needed the letters that he would write to all the churches.
 - What I am trying to convey is this:
 - ***God’s timing is always best.***

¹⁴ I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

- It is clear that Paul see’s Rome divided into two groups.

- “Greeks” the educated and refined
- “Barbarians” the uneducated and unrefined.
 - His obligation is to preach the gospel to both
 - His obligation doesn’t stop with evangelism for Paul like us has been called to make disciples.
 - This is why Paul would stay in some churches for months or more than a year.

¹⁵ In this way, for my part, I am eager to proclaim the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

- Since this letter is to the Roman Church, I don’t believe that “proclaiming the gospel” means in an evangelistic sense.
 - The gospel is more than Jesus died on the cross for our sins
 - The gospel is a call to holiness, it’s about what brings glory and honor to God the Father.
 - It contains Christian theology that shapes Christian philosophy.
 - It is how to pray for the sick,
 - How to serve
 - How to give
 - How to grieve
 - How to disciple
 - How to baptize
 - Proclaiming the gospel is proclaiming all that the Holy Scriptures proclaim.
 - Proclaiming means the making of disciples.

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel,

Why would Paul say this?

- There is a vast difference between being ashamed and shamed.
 - Paul has without a doubt been shamed because of the gospel

2 Corinthians 11:21-27

But whatever they dare to boast about—I'm talking like a fool again—I dare to boast about it, too. ²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. ²³ Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, **but I have served him far more!** I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. ²⁴ Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. ²⁶ I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. ²⁷ I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.

- It is a shameful thing to be beaten.
 - It is shameful to constantly be on the run from people who want to kill you.

- It is shameful to not have money for food
- It is shameful to be thrown in jail
- It is shameful to be hated by people in the church
- It is shameful to be unwelcomed almost everywhere you go
 - But Paul is like his Savior and King Jesus Christ who turned His shame into motivation and encouragement.

Hebrews 12:1-4

12 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

- So, we see clearly the difference between shame and being ashamed.
 - Shame comes when you are mistreated
 - Shame comes when you don't have what you need
 - Ashamed comes when you agree with those who have mistreated you because you have done something wrong.
 - Ashamed comes when you don't have what you need because of a bad decision or action of your own.

The gospel of Jesus Christ had brought shame upon Paul but he was NEVER ASHAMED. (How do we know?)

for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,

- The gospel of Jesus Christ is the only hope for humanity
- It is the power of God for salvation
 - Meaning that sharing DNA with Abraham is not enough.
 - Salvation comes through God's grace and is received by faith in Christ Jesus.
 - The Gospel is for everyone who believes. (pisteuo)

to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

- The gospel had started in Jerusalem with the Jews
- Jesus said that His people would be His witness's 1st in Jerusalem, then Judea, then Samaria, and the ends of the earth.
 - Jewish, Jewish, partly Jewish, Greek.
- God has made an everlasting covenant with His people the Jews.
- God always, always, always, keeps His covenants.
 - His holy and righteous plan was to express His saving grace through the Jewish people, but they dropped the ball.
 - Ultimately the Jews would become so prideful that they would reject and murder their promised Messiah Jesus.
 - This would lead to the "time of the gentiles" (Luke 21)
 - Jesus says that once the time of the gentiles has been fulfilled then will He reach back out to the Jewish people which will ultimately begin the millennial kingdom.
- Jesus also expressed this truth at the well with the Samaritan woman.

John 4:21-24

²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

So, God’s perfect plan was that the gospel of Jesus Christ would come 1st to the Jews and then to the gentiles.

- That is exactly what happened.

¹⁷ For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed

- In the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed.
 - What is righteousness? (Right living according to God)
- This may be one of the most powerful statements in the Bible.
 - Receiving the gospel is the only way that truth revealed.
 - Receiving the gospel is the only way anyone could ever live in righteousness.

Let me say this another way:

- To reject the truth (living unrighteously), could be proof that someone is not a Christian
 - The righteousness of God can only be revealed to those who have received and embraced the gospel.
 - The Bible is where we find the righteousness of God.

- I say “could be proof” because I understand that we all are at different stages of maturity.
 - It could be that you just don’t know.
 - But what we all must do is when the truth is known, meaning if someone corrects bad theology with scripture, we must accept and change what we believe.

By the way, all of us have the responsibility and the command on our life to continue to grow in righteousness until we are made perfectly righteous when the Lord calls us home.

from faith to faith;

- Why would Paul say this?
 - What is he trying to convey?
 - I think what Paul is conveying is that there are different levels of faith.
 - Different maturity levels.
 - As you mature you move from faith to faith or saying it another way from faith to greater faith.
 - But make no mistake, there is an expectation that moving from faith to greater faith is the command and expectation on our lives.

as it is written, “But the righteous will live by faith.”

- Faith in the work and power of Jesus Christ is our only hope
- For we know that we cannot place our hope in:

- Our works
- Church membership
- Our money
- Our position at work
- Our bodies that breakdown
- Our friendships
- Our spouses or children
 - Our hope is in Christ alone!

Closing:

Our faith is a unique and powerful thing.

- **It produces a thankful heart** that prays constantly in all situations for both friend and foe.
- **It produces a desire to serve** others and find mutual encouragement as we make our way through this very difficult journey called life.
- **It produces the patience** to wait upon the Lord even when our greatest desire is go and do something.
- **It produces an obligation** to tell all peoples about Jesus and His wonderful gospel.
- **It produces a state of mind** that is never ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- **It produces a state of mind** that embraces the shame brought about by the proclamation of the gospel.
- **It produces the fruit of righteous living** as it drives us to become more like Jesus every day.

This is the gospel of Jesus Christ of which I am not ashamed!