

## Romans 1:14-17 The Gospel

What is the Gospel? And why was Paul not ashamed to boldly proclaim it?

Topic- Gospel

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“For I am not ashamed”

Litote? Is this just another way of saying, “I’m proud?”

“There’s no sense in declaring that you’re not ashamed of something unless you’ve been tempted to feel ashamed of it.” -James Stewart

Was Paul ever ashamed of the Gospel?

1 Corinthians 2:3 — I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

Acts 18:9-10 — Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; “for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.”

2 Timothy 1:8 — Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord...

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Why would someone be ashamed of the Gospel?

\*Alexamenos Graffito- “Alexamenos worships his God”

\*One of these gods is not like the other...

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### 10 REASONS PEOPLE ARE ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL:

- Fear of rejection — not wanting to be disliked or excluded
- Cultural pressure — exclusivity of Christ clashes with modern tolerance
- Intellectual intimidation — fear of sounding ignorant or unscientific
- Moral conviction — the gospel exposes personal sin
- Fear of conflict — desire to avoid tension
- Lack of confidence — not feeling equipped to answer questions
- Workplace risk — concern about reputation or advancement
- Bad associations — embarrassment from extreme or hypocritical Christians

- Family pressure — not wanting tension with loved ones
- Pride — unwillingness to admit need for grace

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What is offensive about the Gospel?

1 Corinthians 1:18 & 23 — For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing... to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

One way to identify an unbiblical Gospel is if that Gospel doesn't offend.

-(Note: That doesn't mean that more offensive is better.)

EXAMPLES OF “GOSPELS” THAT DON'T OFFEND:

- Prosperity gospel — promises blessing, avoids sin, repentance, and suffering
- Seeker-friendly gospel — removes hard truths to keep people comfortable
- Moralistic gospel — “be a good person” instead of “you are a sinner needing a Savior”
- Universalist gospel — everyone saved, no judgment or exclusivity
- Social/humanitarian gospel — reduces salvation to social improvement and humanitarian aid, not sin and redemption
- Decision-only gospel — quick prayer with no call to surrender

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What then is the true “gospel of Christ”

The Gospel is the Good News

- of what God has done
- of what God is doing
- and of what God has promised to do
- the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes

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“for it is the power”

Power = dynamis(δύναμις); strength, power, ability

- Dynamite > Destructive power
- Dynamo > Generative power

The Gospel has both the power to tear down and the power to build up.

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“the power of God”

The Gospel is neither advice nor instruction on how people can save themselves,  
-it is the very power of God to do so.

2 Peter 1:3 — His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...

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“the power of God to salvation”

“The word is here probably used in its largest meaning... All the blessings which God alone can give in answer to the need and longing of man...” Handley C.G. Moule

Salvation = safety, healing, soundness, deliverance, & wholeness

The Gospel Saves From The:

- Penalty of sin (Justification)
- Pleasure & Power of sin (Sanctification)
- Presence of sin (Glorification)

The Gospel saves us from sin, but it also reconciles us to God.

-The Gospel restores our fellowship with God and is the basis of our communion with Him.

The Gospel is the power to, “come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)

-By the Gospel we have “received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’” (Romans 8:15)

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“for everyone who believes”

The Gospel is FOR all

Because the Gospel is needed BY all

2 Corinthians 5:14 — ...we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;

Romans 3:23 & 6:23 — for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [and] the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

-Both Chronologically & Logically

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“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed“

False gospels and false religion emphasize how righteous we are, or need to be...

-The Gospel reveals how righteous God is...

Revealed = Present, Passive, Indicative

-Indicative = statement of fact

-Passive = it is happening to us

-Present = Currently, ongoing, and continuing to take place

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“from faith to faith”

Beginning to end. All of God's power and work will be accomplished by faith.

Galatians 3:3 — Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

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as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

WHAT IS FAITH?

-Faith is more than believing

-Faith is belief + trust

-Faith is belief + action

-Believing is the first step in faith, but faith is receiving

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\*Faith 1

\*Faith 2

\*Faith 2b

\*Faith 3

\*Faith 4

We live by faith every day.

- You turn on the faucet in faith that the water is safe.
- Some people use a filter, believing by faith that it makes a difference.
- We press our brake pedals by faith that it will stop our car.
- We get on a plane by faith that the pilot knows how to fly.

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This is why Paul was not ashamed.

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“I am ready to preach the gospel”

Ready = prothymos(πρόθυμος); 3x; “ready or willing”

-Lit. A boiling passion that drives us

“to you who are in Rome”

Why preach to Christians?

- Because we still need the Gospel!
- Christians still need the power of God.

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“both to Greeks and to barbarians”

-Every race

-“both to wise and to unwise.”

-Every class

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“I am a debtor”

-Romans 1:14 NLT — For I have a great sense of obligation...

Romans 9:3 — For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,

-“I'd damn myself if only I could save them.”

2 Corinthians 5:11 & 14 — Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men... For the love of Christ compels us...

To the extent that we know the love of Christ, we will be obligated to share it with others.

1 Corinthians 9:16 — ...for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

\*George Whitefield — “God forbid that I should travel with anybody a quarter of an hour without speaking of Christ.”

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The joy and excitement of salvation obligated us.

Luke 24:32 — And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”

Luke 24:33-34— So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!”

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“I am a debtor”

Most become a debtor by borrowing..

-but you can also be a debtor by being given something intended to be passed on, but then withholding it.

Do you really believe that you are going to heaven?

How strongly do you believe that?

Are you confident in your salvation?

Are you equally confident in the damnation of the lost?

Matthew 10:8 — Freely you have received, freely give.

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\*WWII- Jim and Johnny

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1 Corinthians 15:14 — And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.