



Connect Discussion Guide

03.06.22 Message | Keith Ehresman | Romans 1:16-17

Key Scriptures:

I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

- Romans 1:14-17

...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Hebrews 12:2

For still the vision awaits its appointed time;

it hastens to the end—it will not lie.

If it seems slow, wait for it;

it will surely come; it will not delay.

"Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,

but the righteous shall live by his faith."

- Habakkuk 2:3-4

Message Highlights:

- Paul was not ashamed to share the gospel because of God's power he knew to be true
- Ironically, Paul unashamedly sharing the gospel stirred up other people to shame him
- We live unashamed trusting God is working to draw people to him

Conversation Starter:

Can you think of a scene from a TV or movie that, perhaps humorously, depicted a character experiencing shame for something they did or did not do? Where was there truth in the depiction, and where was reality stretched thin?

Discuss the Message:

1. Put yourself in Paul's shoes, preaching to cultured Greeks who mocked him for spreading foolishness and to unbelieving Jews who accused him of preaching a false Christ.
 - a. How does it feel to be shamed for choosing to boldly preach the gospel message?
 - b. Practically, how do you love these people who are speaking against your very faith?
 - c. Where and how do you find strength to share the gospel again after such an experience?
2. Why is it too easy to slip into judgment mode toward those who are engaged in sin instead of focusing on our own obligation to live and share the gospel?
 - a. Is there a pattern to your judgment, and if so, how can you stop the cycle of casting judgment and replace it with living out the gospel?
 - b. Read Romans 1:14-15; comment on Paul's use of the words "obligation" and "eager to preach." What obligation is Paul speaking about, and how might his mindset encourage you?
3. Keith mentioned that it isn't about having a "checklist" type of faith, but rather being unashamed of serving the one who sees us as perfect, even in our imperfections.
 - a. Where have you, intentionally or unintentionally, worked a type of "faith checklist" into your days?
 - b. How does a checklist differ from a routine that stems from self-discipline?
 - c. How has this helped you in your walk with Christ, and what are some ways it may be hindering you?

Pray:

Father in Heaven, we praise you for the hope we have in Jesus, who endured shame on our behalf so that we might be free from shame! Help us, by your Spirit, to leave behind a "checklist" faith in which we're constantly judging ourselves and others. May we fully trust in what you have accomplished for us in Christ, that we might live by faith, without shame, and to be unashamed in our devotion to your Son, Jesus. Amen.