

World without Restraint

Part 3

September 3, 2017

I World without Restraint

A) **SLIDE Romans 1:16-17 (NIV)** ¹⁶ I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

B) **SLIDE** The TRUE Gospel

- 1) In Habakkuk's world, the people had turned away from God's righteousness and adopted their own.
- 2) Paul was seeing the same thing, as are we
- 3) However, the true Gospel of Jesus Christ attacks the righteousness of the world
- 4) It demolishes man's reasoning
- 5) It tells us that every person must change
- 6) And the world does not like that
- 7) **SLIDE 1 Corinthians 1:18-21 (NIV)** ¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." ²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.
- 8) If the world sees the message of the cross as foolishness, then the world will see us as foolish for believing it

- 9) This can cause some to be ashamed of the Gospel because they do not want to appear foolish
- C) Why did Paul begin this letter by saying he was not ashamed of the Gospel?
 - 1) Because of what was coming next
 - 2) Because if we are ashamed of the Gospel, we will not stand against the wickedness of our world
 - 3) If we are ashamed of the gospel, we will not speak the truth
 - 4) Paul wants the Jews and Gentiles to know that he is not ashamed of Jesus, of the Good News, or of who he is in Christ
 - 5) Because he is not ashamed of THE Gospel that can save us and impart righteousness, he will speak the truth.

II The Truth According to the Gospel of Jesus Christ

A) Fraternity Hazing

- 1) In February of this year, Timothy Piazza pledged to Beta Theta Pi fraternity
- 2) On Feb. 4, 18 frat brothers put Timothy through a pledge ceremony that involved one drinking gave after another
- 3) Timothy became so drunk that he fell down the stairs
- 4) The frat members put him to bed but did nothing else
- 5) Timothy got up and fell down the stairs a second time, but the brothers did nothing to help
- 6) They did not call 911 until 12 hours later; they found Timothy dead
- 7) Up to this time, the fraternity had been living it up, having what they had determined was a good time
- 8) They ate, drank, and were merry
- 9) However, after Timothy's death, those 18 fraternity members found themselves in a court of law after being held responsible for the death
- 10) The court room was a different place

B) **SLIDE** God's Court Room

- 1) Paul is now taking us into God's courtroom where God's justice is supreme
- 2) Paul describes a wicked world lost in its own dealings having to stand before God
- 3) God's justice does not flow from His anger but from His justice
- 4) However, as Jesus demonstrated when He cleansed the temple, that justice can be severe
- 5) Paul now gives us a picture of the righteousness of God and of His justice

C) **SLIDE Romans 1:18 (NIV)** ¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

- 1) The apostle has now finished his preface, and comes to the grand subject of the epistle;
- 2) He shows our absolute need for the Gospel of Christ because of the universal corruption of mankind
- 3) That corruption was and is so great as to incense the justice of God and call for justice
- 4) Paul is clearly telling us and the world why we need Jesus and the Gospel

5) **SLIDE** Wrath

- a) Anger, indignation, divine judgement
- b) Remember, God is not an idol that cannot hear, see, touch, or feel
- c) We are made in His image; thus, we get our emotions from Him
- d) **1 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV)** ⁵ It [love] does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
- e) Love is not easily angered, but it can be angered
- f) God's love is long-suffering, but it can be angered

6) **SLIDE** Revealed

- a) To remove a veil or covering

- b) To expose what was before hidden
 - c) To reveal something that was once hidden
- 7) Being revealed from heaven
 - a) This wrath is not revealed by man
 - b) It is revealed, uncovered, exposed by God Himself
 - c) God does this slowly to give us time to repent and change our ways
 - d) When we ignore this revelation, God's wrath builds
- 8) **SLIDE** Godlessness
 - a) Suffix "less" means without
 - b) Suffix "ness" denotes a state or condition
 - c) Thus, Godlessness means "a state or condition where people live without God"
- 9) Wickedness
 - a) Anything that does not conform with God's justice
 - b) Unjust
 - c) Unrighteousness (thus, the opposite of righteousness that comes by faith)
- D) **SLIDE** God's wrath is being revealed because this godlessness and wickedness are suppressing the Truth
 - 1) Suppress: put an end to; stamp out; try to defeat; overpower
 - 2) God has been speaking to us for a long time about speaking the Truth
 - 3) Paul began by saying we should not be ashamed of the Truth of the one true Gospel
 - 4) We are in a world that is suppressing the truth because of godlessness and wickedness
 - 5) By embracing or excusing such behavior, we bury the Truth; we bury the only Gospel that can save us
- E) Examples
 - 1) Rampant cursing and vulgarity taken as comedy
 - 2) Name-calling and embracing curses
 - 3) Nudity is embraced as a form of empowerment

- 4) **Isaiah 3:9 (NIV)** The look on their faces testifies against them; they parade their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it. Woe to them! They have brought disaster upon themselves.
 - a) Puerto Rican Day Parade - honored Oscar Lopez Rivera, a member of FALN, a group linked to over 100 bombings in five American cities. He was convicted for plotting to overthrow the U.S. government
 - b) July 14 is National Nude Day
- 5) Suppression of free speech to prevent opposing viewpoints
- 6) Removing statues, renaming schools, changing history books
- 7) Renaming sin, a right
- F) **SLIDE** Not about judgement
 - 1) God's wrath is being revealed, but this message is not about judgment
 - 2) It is about waiting upon the Lord
 - 3) It is about not getting swept up in suppressing the truth but about standing firm in declaring the truth
 - 4) It is about waiting on the vision so we can run with it and mount up on wings like eagles
 - 5) It is about not growing weary and leaving the upper room before God's time arrives
 - 6) It is about preparing ourselves, our families, and the church not to be ashamed of the gospel
- G) **Psalms 115:1-18 (NIV)** ¹ Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness. ² Why do the nations say, "Where is their God?" ³ Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him. ⁴ But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. ⁵ They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; ⁶ they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; ⁷ they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats. ⁸ Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.

⁹ O house of Israel, trust in the LORD-- he is their help and shield.
¹⁰ O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD-- he is their help and shield.
¹¹ You who fear him, trust in the LORD-- he is their help and shield.
¹² The LORD remembers us and will bless us: He will bless the house of Israel, he will bless the house of Aaron, ¹³ he will bless those who fear the LORD-- small and great alike. ¹⁴ May the LORD make you increase, both you and your children. ¹⁵ May you be blessed by the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. ¹⁶ The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth he has given to man. ¹⁷ It is not the dead who praise the LORD, those who go down to silence; ¹⁸ it is we who extol the LORD, both now and forevermore. Praise the LORD.