

Romans 1:16–17

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

The Righteousness of God **Romans 1:16-17**

INTRO:

The point of these two verses is the statement in **verse 16**, ***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.”*** In our text Paul lays out two reasons why he is not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I. I Am Not Ashamed Because It Is The Power of God (verse 16)

II. I Am Not Ashamed Because In the Gospel the Righteousness of God is made Clear

I. I Am Not Ashamed Because It Is the Power of God (verse 16)

Romans 1:16 ***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”***

A. Some questions pop easily into our minds here. First, what is this Gospel? The word means good news. With Paul, however, this term has a technical meaning. The long definition is **chapters 1-11** of the Epistle to the Romans. The short answer is **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**.

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

B. Second, what is this ***“power?”*** The power in the Gospel is not dynamite. It is the power that moves us into salvation. There are pictures of this power in the New Testament.

1. This power is that which transfers us from death to life.

John 5:24 ***“Truly, truly I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”***

2. It is the power that changes our lives.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”***

3. It is the power that is like unto power that brought Christ up from the dead.
Ephesians 1:19-20 *“And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.”*

C. Who is this Gospel for? It is for all who believe, Jews and Gentiles.

II. I Am Not Ashamed Because In the Gospel the Righteousness of God is made Clear (verse 17)

Romans 1:17 *“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’”*

A. Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel because it revealed God’s righteousness from faith to faith. What is this righteousness? The answer is suggested in **Romans 3:21-22**.

“But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.”

Over and over again in this epistle, the Apostle Paul declares that this righteousness is through faith and apart from the Law. This is not a righteousness that is earned.

We are right before God because He declared us righteous in our response to Christ and His sacrifice for us.

Philippians 3:9 *“And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith”*

B. The support for this is **Habakkuk 2:14**, here the LORD asserts that the one who has faith in the LORD will live resting on his faith in the LORD. The entire of Romans is built on the fact that our imputed righteousness is ours through faith alone.

Why Is This Important?

1. This is the only way we can ever be saved for all eternity. This is not an intellectual exercise. This is a reality which we either have or we have no hope.

2. In the reality described in these two verses, Martin Luther finally found salvation and his deliverance from sin. Have we found our salvation in our faith in Christ and the righteousness declared to our account by faith?

Hymn #26 ***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God***