

Rooting Through Romans Pt 4 Romans 1:16-17, Not Ashamed of the Gospel

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney at Porchlight Baptist Church, 11/08/2020

Romans 1:16-17†

†16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

We continue with our studies in the Book of Romans picking up where we left off last time looking at Paul's greeting to the Church. Now, here in verse 16, Paul switches gears and begins rooting deeper into the reason he desires to visit Rome. As he has already said in the verses, we studied last week, he had often times tried to visit Rome but was hindered and he said in verse 15: **Romans 1:15** So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

Then, here in verse 16 he continues with his reason for preaching the Gospel. Look at it again: **16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**

I don't think we have to run to the Greek to understand what the word "ashamed" means. It means the same in Greek as it does in English. It means to feel guilt, conviction, or embarrassment for something you have done.

Paul says when it comes to preaching the Gospel, he is not ashamed. We wonder why would he be? Well, because there were some during Paul's day that would do everything in their power to try and bring shame to him because of what he was preaching. Turn with me over to **1 Corinthians 4:13-16** Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day. **14** I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. **15** For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. **16** Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

Here, Paul is writing to the Church at Corinth. As far as we know, Paul spent more time instructing this Church than any other. It was a large church made up of many different people from different walks of life. They needed a lot of help. Paul is explaining to them the reason for the need for Apostles and ministers of the Gospel. Notice that he told them that they had been "defamed." That word, **defamed**, means "to be blasphemed, to be railed against, to be evil spoken of."

Paul had many enemies because of his preaching of the Gospel; the unbelieving Jews (which were his biggest enemy), the heathen, Romans, Greeks, etc. and they wanted nothing more than to tear him down. To defame his ministry. To turn everyone against him.

But, look what Paul said he did to those that defamed him: **we intreat** That word "intreat" means "to invite, to beseech, to pray for." Paul didn't hate those that hated him and wanted to defame them, instead, he prayed for them and continued to invite them to hear and believe the Gospel. Yet, look what he said next: **we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.** These that wanted to defame Paul, treated him and other Christians like they were the "filth of the world." That word **filth** has the same meaning as "garbage, waste, or dung." It means they treated Paul and others like him as

nothing but trash to be despised and thrown out. He says they were "offscouring," which means "something to be wiped or scraped off and discarded." Like stepping in something nasty and scaping it off of your shoe.

Have you ever been treated like the filth of the world for your belief in the Lord Jesus Christ? If you haven't then you've not been doing very much in His name. The truth is, the world hates Christians and they treat us like we are garbage. They want to just scrape us off like something nasty on the bottom of their shoe.

It is because they hate Jesus Christ that they treat us that way. It is because they are lost that they treat us that way. The same reasons they treated Paul that way.

Yet Paul did not let that hinder him from preaching the Gospel and he encouraged the Church not to allow it to hinder them either. Look what he said to them in verse **14** I write not these things to shame you... Did you see that word "shame"? He doesn't want them to be ashamed of being a Christian, of sharing the Gospel message because – look back at our opening text in Romans 1 again: **16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**

It doesn't matter what the world says to you, says about you, does to you, or makes you look like; it doesn't change the fact that the Gospel is "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" That's why Paul was not ashamed to preach the Gospel because it is the ONLY means of salvation for the world. Jesus said in **John 14:6b** ...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

And he said in **John 11:25b**...I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

Luke writes in **Acts 4:12** Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Nothing has changed in the past 2,000 years where the Gospel is concerned. It still is and always will be the only means of Salvation. That is why it is so important that we not be ashamed to declare it all over the world.

Paul writes in **Romans 10:11** For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

He also warned young Timothy: **2 Timothy 1:8** Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

And, one of the most sobering statements ever made by the Lord Jesus we read in **Mark 8:38** Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

The world thinks the Gospel message is nothing but foolishness. I want you to turn over to what Paul wrote, again, the Church at Corinth and see what he says about this: **1 Corinthians 1:18-31** For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Those that perish means those that are lost in their sins; unsaved people. They believe the preaching of the cross (which is the Gospel) is nothing but foolishness. They will try their best to make Christians look like fools. You see them in the public

stage whether it be in our news media, the government, comments on websites or social media – the lost spend a big majority of their time trying to defame Christians and make us look foolish.

But we know that it is the Gospel that brings salvation to the lost. Keep looking:

- 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.
20 Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?
21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.
22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:
23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;
24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.
25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.
26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*:
27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;
28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:
29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.
30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:
31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

We often look at the world and the sin and wickedness around us and say things such as “I just don’t understand why they can’t believe. I don’t understand why they are so bent on trying to make Christians look foolish.

Well, there are numerous places in the Bible that explains why it is the way it is. Turn with me to the next chapter and the Bible tells us why we think the way we do and why they think the way they do” **1 Corinthians 2:6-16**

- 6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:
7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:
8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.
10 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, *yea*, the deep things of God.
11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.
12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God;

that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

We see here, that the lost of this world is unable to discern Spiritual things. That is why they deem them as foolish – they make no sense to them.

It is like me trying to solve a Calculus equation – I took Calculus in college but I never understood it because I have Dyscalculia. My mind cannot comprehend it – to me it is foolishness but to those that can discern math problems it makes perfect sense. You see, I could sit down and study and memorize equations and retain enough information to pass a test but after the test was over, I couldn’t tell you how to work it out to save my life.

The lost can read the Bible, they can memorize Scripture but until a man gets saved, he cannot understand the Spiritual things to save his life.

Now look back at the last verse in our opening text in **Romans 1:17** For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

The word “**therein**” is referring to **the Gospel**. So, you could say it like this: **For it is the Gospel of Christ that the righteousness of God is revealed to those that have faith in Him.**

Once we place our faith in Christ, the Gospel is no longer a mystery to us. It remains a mystery to the lost and therefore it is up to us to preach the Gospel unto them so that they can hear it and through the power of the Holy Spirit be convicted that they are a sinner. Once they do that they can be saved and it will no longer be a mystery to them either.

All of this is why Paul wrote to the Church at Rome: “**For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.**”

We do not have time to go into it today but next time we will finish out Chapter 1 which goes into the details of a depraved, unrighteous, lost person and see God’s wrath against them and their sin. This will show us exactly why we too should be able to say “**For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.**”