

## Not Ashamed

### Romans 1:16 – I am not ashamed of the Gospel...

#### 1) Shame

- a) Relates to what a certain community values,
- b) Feeling of shame is a measure of how badly you want to belong to that community.

#### 2) Dispelling False Shames

- a) Your Gospel is Parochial (not for everyone)
- b) Your Gospel is Novel
- c) Your Gospel is Common

#### 3) Rejecting True (but Rebel) Shames

- a) Your Gospel Exclusively Saves

v. 16 – it is THE power of God for salvation!  
 v. 17 – For in IT, the righteousness of God is revealed... In IT, and nowhere else.

#### b) Your Gospel Brings Suffering

Paul doesn't argue with the fact that the Gospel will bring difficult changes to life, and with it a measure of suffering.

...Suffering from the world who not only shames, but often even turns violently on Christians...  
 1 Thess 2:14-16; Heb 10:32-33;

...Suffering internally – a great wrestling of soul to try to live for Christ when my flesh, and the world, and the devil himself are all against me.  
 Gal 5:16-17, Rom 7:21-24

...Suffering common to man – there is no guarantee that I still won't have physical pain, disease, financial setbacks, broken relationships.  
 2 Cor 4:16, 5:2; Rom 8:22-23, 19-21; **1 Pt 2:18-20**

Rom 8:18 – *I consider the sufferings of this present time not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

v. 16 - ... it is the power of God for SALVATION!  
 v. 17 - ... the righteous by faith shall LIVE!

2 Tim 1:8-12...

### c) Your Gospel Can't be Proven

Or, "it must be believed by Faith."

*v. 16 – salvation to everyone who believes*

*v. 17 – in it the righteousness of God is revealed*

*from faith to faith,*

*and "the righteous by faith shall live."*

### 4) Why Salvation by Faith is No Shame

1. Evidence alone won't turn a rebel heart

v. 18 ("suppress the truth")

2. Faith is the whole point!

God created mankind for the Obedience of Faith,  
not the Obedience of Sight.

Adam and Eve...

Abraham...

Jesus... Luke 16:31, John 20:29

Paul... – Acts 28:23-24, 1 Cor 2:5, Rom 1:5

3. God Himself shows up to do the convincing

Paul in many ways expresses this glorious truth,  
but none more clearly than in 2 Cor 4:3-6 ...

#### Praxis

1. How can you gain confidence in the Gospel and in your role as a Gospel witness?
2. How would you answer someone who said, "Shame on you for saying your gospel is the only way of salvation"?
3. 1 Peter presents 3 types of suffering: in spite of doing good (2:18-20), for doing good (3:13-17), for being a Christian (4:14-16). How do the surrounding verses teach you to respond?
4. If more evidence / reasoning won't change a rebel heart, what helpful purposes might there be for still providing evidences to someone?
5. How might you respond if someone scoffs that you cannot prove the Gospel is true?