



The Courage of Believing the Gospel

Romans 1:16-17

**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.”

Video

“Dumb” Christians?

“Uneducated” Christians?

“Anti-science” Christians?

2nd Century - Celsus

“Let no cultured person draw near, none wise, none sensible. of the Christians we see them as the most uneducated persons.” (He compared Christians to a swarm of bats, to ants crawling out of their nests, to frogs holding a symposium around a swamp and to worms cowering in the muck.)

John MacArthur – Commentary on Romans

“Christianity is not a hopelessly outdated superstition that only the uneducated and gullible believe.”

Jonathan Morrow

I am not ashamed of...

**We preach Christ crucified, a
stumbling block to Jews and folly
to Gentiles. 1 Cor. 1:23**

**“Shame” – (190 times in the O.T.)
(46 times in the N.T.)**

**disgrace; consciousness of
guilt or shortcoming; regret**

**Question to answer –
shame from the world –
acceptance with God OR
acceptance from the world –
shame before God?**

1. What the Gospel says about God.

**For in it the righteousness of God is
revealed from faith to faith.**

Rom. 1:17

**“Righteousness” – to fulfill certain
expectations in relationships
- a “right” relationship with God**

**“... See all our righteous deeds are
like a polluted garment.”**

Isa. 64:6

**Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst for righteousness for they shall
be satisfied. Matt. 5:6**

**The Lord within her is righteous;
He does no injustice.**

Zeph. 3:5

**For the wrath of God is revealed from
heaven against all ... (18)**

**Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath
to come. I Thess. 1:10**

... ungodliness (18)

**And unrighteousness of men, who by
their unrighteousness suppress the
truth. (18)**

**... storing up wrath for yourself on the
day of wrath... Rom. 2:5**

People loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. John 3:19

For what can be known about God is plain to them because God has shown it to them. (19)

**The fool says in his heart,
there is no God. Ps. 14:1**

**For His invisible attributes,
His eternal power and Divine nature
have been clearly perceived, ever
since the creation of the world, in the
things that have been made.
So they are without excuse.**

(20)

God reveals Himself to the world...

How?

- . Creation (Rom. 1:20)**
- . Conscience (Rom. 2:14-15)**
- . Communication – “Bible” (Rom. 10:17)**
- . Christ Himself – (Jn. 1:14)**
- . Christians – (2 Cor. 5:20)**

“Except to a mind willfully closed to the obvious, it is inconceivable that such power, intricacy and harmony could have developed by any means but that of a Master Designer who rules the universe. It would be infinitely more reasonable to think that the separate pieces of a watch could be shaken in a bag and eventually become a dependable timepiece than to think that the world could have evolved into its present state by blind chance.”

John MacArthur Jr.

**Average # of cells in the human body –
100 trillion**

**1 Cell – informational equivalent of
8,000 books or 500,000 DVDs**

- No defense
- No argument
- No come back

2. What the Gospel says about people.

... to everyone... (16)

**Christ Jesus came into the world to
save sinners, of whom I am the
foremost. 1 Tim. 1:15**

- No one is “good” enough to be saved.
- No one is so evil that he cannot be saved.

**They became futile in their thinking
and their foolish hearts were
darkened. (21b)**

To reject God is to reject the greatest reality in the universe – the reality which gives the only true meaning, purpose, and understanding to everything else.

**... claiming to be wise, they became
fools. (22)**

... exchange truth for lies (25)

Will God give man brains to see these things and will man then fail to exercise his will toward that God? The sorrowful answer is that both of these things are true. God will give a man brains to smelt iron and make a hammer head and nails. God will grow a tree and give strength to cut it down and brains to fashion a hammer handle from its wood.

**And when man has the hammer
and the nails, God will put out His
hand and let man drive nails
through it and place Him on a cross
in the supreme demonstration that
men are without excuse.**

Donald Barnhouse

**He will render to each one according
to his works. (2:6)**

**... the whole world may be held
accountable to God.**

Rom 3:19

For God shows no partiality (11)

**God judges the secrets of men
by Christ Jesus (16)**

**For all have sinned and fall short
of the glory of God. (3:23)**

“fall short?” -

- . Come in last**
- . Not even close**
- . Inadequate**
- . Inferior to standard**

Glory of God –

- Summary of God's attributes**
- His will; or standards**
- His holiness-**

3. What the Gospel says about faith.

... to everyone who believes. (16)

**Without faith it is impossible to please
God. Heb. 11:6**

**“Believe” - to trust in; rely upon;
confidence in; act upon; stand on**

“Universities are about reason, pure and simple. Faith - believing something without good reasons to do so - has no place in anything but a religious institution and our society has no shortage of these.

Harvard Psychologist -Steven Pinker

**Biblical faith acts on knowledge. It's
not a substitute for knowledge.**

**“Not just an entrance requirement
but a relationship requirement.”**

**The righteousness of God through
faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.
(3:22)**

**Faith in the work of Christ – brings
a “right” relationship.
Faith opens the door to the
righteousness of God.**

**He might be just and the justifier of the
one who has faith in Jesus. (26)**

**How can a holy God remain “just” and
at the same time justify sinners?**

**We hold that one is justified by faith
apart from the works of the law. (28)**

**Since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through
our Lord Jesus Christ. (5:1)**

“Peace” – not a feeling or an emotion

- objective fact**
- war with God is over!**
- Jesus has made peace on our behalf**

**For with the heart one believes
and is justified (10:10)**

**Everyone who believes in Him will not
be put to shame. (11)**

Shame at the judgment

- no answer**
- wrong answer**

4. What the Gospel says about salvation

**... it is the power of God for
salvation (16)**

**For God has not destined us for wrath,
but to obtain salvation through our
Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thess. 5:9**

**For by grace you have been saved
through faith... Eph. 2:8**

**The Lord is my light and my
salvation; whom shall I fear?**

Ps. 27:1

It is the power of God!

- . The expression of Divine force.**
- . The dynamite of God at work.**
- . The solution of God- within His ability.**
- . The victorious overpowering of the enemy.**
- . The destruction of sin and death.**

**We do not need to defend
Christianity – but like a lion, we need
to set it free and it will defend itself.**

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it is the power of God for salvation to
everyone who believes, to the Jew first
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