

“Preaching the Gospel”

Romans 1:15-17

Hymns: 80, 170, 478, 500, 534, 537, 406

¹⁵ So, as much as is in me, *I am* ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. 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.*” Romans 1:15–17 (NKJV)

I. Ready to preach -

¹⁵ So, as much as is in me, *I am* ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.
Romans 1:15 (NKJV)

1. *This is me too, I am ready to preach, I love preaching, despite many early struggles, both preparing for and preaching sermons is a joy ...*
2. *My personal opinion: preaching or preparing a Bible study is something every Christian should try, women teaching women ...*
3. *I am not a traveler, I am happy in North Port, I am happy at Word of Life Church, but if I did travel, I would love to preach ...*
4. *Pray for your preacher –*

Ephesians 6:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

If Paul needed prayer for his preaching, so do I, so does every preacher! Without prayer a sermon is just a speech, and there is a BIG DIFFERENCE!

II. Not ashamed –

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ ... Romans 1:16 A (NKJV)

1. *Why might someone be ashamed?*

A. *Misunderstanding the Gospel, or Christ Himself, seeing Him, despised –*

Jesus took the place of sinners, of a criminal, He died on a cross –

³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Isaiah 53:3 (NKJV)

When the Jewish people saw Him beaten by Roman soldiers, they were ashamed of Him, this is why (at least partially) they yelled for His crucifixion ...

¹⁴ Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” ¹⁵ But they cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar!” John 19:14–15 (NKJV)

B. *Ashamed to preach because of other's misunderstanding / disagreement, and your own fear – Jesus was being treated as a criminal, Peter would not fight for Him or even speak ...*

⁶⁹ Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." ⁷⁰ But he denied it before *them* all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." ⁷¹ And when he had gone out to the gateway, another *girl* saw him and said to those *who were there*, "This *fellow* also was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷² But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" ⁷³ And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are *one of them*, for your speech betrays you." ⁷⁴ Then he began to curse and swear, *saying*, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "**Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.**" So he went out and wept bitterly. Matthew 26:69–75 (NKJV)

C. *Ashamed to preach / teach / share because of knowledge of your own weakness*

2. *Not ashamed, why? Because of the Gospel's power – for it is the power of God... Romans 1:16 (NKJV)*

δύναμις *dunamis* {doo'-nam-is} Meaning: 1) strength power, ability ... it is the word from which we get our word dynamite yet ...

A. *Power to fix / save rather than to destroy for it is the power of God to salvation... Romans 1:16 B (NKJV)*

- *Men destroy –*

Ecclesiastes 7:27–29 (NKJV) ²⁷ "Here is what I have found," says the Preacher, "*Adding one thing to the other to find out the reason,* ²⁸ *Which my soul still seeks but I cannot find: One man among a thousand I have found, But a woman among all these I have not found.* ²⁹ *Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes.*"

- *God saves, God's dynamite puts things and broken people back together, even the Gospel does this: it confronts men with sin ... but also points to the Savior!*

Bad doctors fail miserably, yet some LOVE them -

¹⁴ They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When *there is no peace.* Jeremiah 6:14 (NKJV)

Mark 2:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ When Jesus heard *it*, He said to them, "**Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call *the righteous*, but sinners, to repentance.**"

B. *Power for EVERYONE – for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek... Romans 1:16 C*

3. *Not ashamed, why? Because the righteousness of God is revealed*
¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed... Romans 1:17 A (NKJV)

4. *Not ashamed, why? Because faith results in life – from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:17 B (NKJV)*

Preaching the Word of Life to a world full of Zombies ----

Ephesians 2:1–10 (NKJV)

2 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:1–10 (NKJV)

- *What we all once were – dead - :1*
- *What we all once did – walked in sin, in spiritual moral death, not knowing God and controlled by Satan - :2-3*
- *What God has done for us - :4-9*
- *What God enables us to do - :10*

This is the Good News –

The Old Violin

The Touch of the Masters Hand

'It was battered and scarred, And the auctioneer thought it
hardly worth his while to waste his time on the old violin,
but he held it up with a smile.

"What am I bid, good people", he cried, "Who starts the bidding for me?"

"One dollar, one dollar, Do I hear two?"

"Two dollars, who makes it three?"

"Three dollars once, three dollars twice, going for three,"

But, No,
From the room far back a gray bearded man Came forward and picked up the bow,
Then wiping the dust from the old violin
And tightening up the strings,
He played a melody, pure and sweet
As sweet as the angel sings.

The music ceased and the auctioneer With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said "What now am I bid for this old violin?" As he held it aloft with its' bow.

"One thousand, one thousand, Do I hear two?"
"Two thousand, who makes it three?"
"Three thousand once, three thousand twice,
Going and gone", said he.

The audience cheered,
But some of them cried,
"We just don't understand."
"What changed its' worth?"
Swift came the reply.
"The Touch of the Masters Hand."

"And many a man with life out of tune
All battered and scarred with sin
Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd
Much like that old violin

A mess of pottage, a glass of wine,
A game and he travels on.
He is going once, he is going twice,
He is going and almost gone.

But the Master comes,
And the foolish crowd never can quite understand,
The worth of a soul and the change that is wrought
By the Touch of the Masters' Hand.

- Myra Brooks Welch

Or the sound of the Master's Voice – John 10:27

John 10:27–30 (NKJV)

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one."

Arnold A. Brevick