

I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

(Sermon Summary)

Sunday Evening, 10th July 2022

Preacher: Nick Davis (Jacksdale).

Reading: Romans 1:1-17. (vv16-17)

You can hear Paul's enthusiasm as he writes verse 16 and 17. We can lose our grasp of how central the gospel is. We can become cold to its benefits. We need to be reminded of it every day. It is not just for unbelievers but for believers too. We sin against the Lord and need to be reminded about the glorious hope and the truth of imputed righteousness. We can become proud and think that what we have spiritually, we got for ourselves. So we need to be humbled by the gospel. The gospel saves us, sanctifies us and one day will glorify us.

People can turn the gospel in to a decision we take or believe it is a ticket to heaven. But that is to talk like the world and to forget that the gospel means that we should change. Some supposed Christians think it is unloving to speak about sin. There are many church buildings but very little gospel that is preached. Many do not want to endure sound doctrine. We need to be defenders of the gospel. This gospel needs to be preached in the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. We must not be ashamed.

Paul boasts about the gospel. He has been set apart to preach it. The gospel revealed is the very power of God unto salvation. We preach it even if it causes us to die. But are we ashamed of it today? Compared to Paul, we are not being persecuted for it.

During COVID were we different to our neighbours or the same? Do we try to speak to our neighbours? Or are we bowing with one knee to Caesar? There are fewer places today that preach the gospel. But the gospel is the power of God, and we should not be ashamed of it. He commands us to go and preach it and the Lord's sheep will hear His voice. Our weapons are few, but they are mighty in God.

2. The righteousness of God revealed.

What God does for us is more than forgiveness. It deals with the whole man. It is about God and not about us. It starts with a God who is holy and who can have nothing to do with sin. He is righteous and just and does not clear the guilty. He demands that we have a righteousness like His own. It is Christ who fulfilled the law for us, and we are clothed in His righteousness. We are now 100% righteous in His sight. In Song of Solomon 4:4, the words are spoken by Christ to His people. We have a perfect righteousness forever. We are set free to serve God and to hate sin more and more. Christ suffered for all our sin. The sins we commit have already been paid for. Romans 4:1-8 show us that there is no sin left to impute to us. Our sins are no more, and we are as white as snow.

If we think that we can still go on sinning, then this is a proof that we are still dead in our sins and have not understood the gospel. If our sin troubles us, it is good evidence that we are born again.

This message is the only hope for our families and for our neighbours. We ask, following Jonathan Edwards, that God might stamp eternity on our eyeballs. Our neighbours will die in their sin, and we need to weep for them because God is going to judge them.