

Romans 1:16-32
The Gospel of Righteousness

Who would be ashamed...

I. The Righteousness of God

- A. His Person
- B. His Works
- C. His Salvation

II. The Wretched State of Man

A. The Guilt of the Guilty

1. Intentional Ignorance

- Suppressing the Truth
- And Inexcusable

2. The Downward Spiral

- Futile Thinking
- Darkened Hearts
- Foolish Traders
- Desire Honored
- Dishonorable Passions
- Filled to the Brim
- Aggravated Souls

B. And the Wrath of God

III. So What's the Good News?

- A. Hope for Sinners
- B. Righteousness Attained
- C. Received by Faith

... of such good news?

Children, Listen ...

1. What does it mean that God is holy and righteous?
2. Are all people sinners?
3. How does God feel about sin?
4. What did God do to take away our sin?
5. How do we receive the forgiveness of sin?

Anything BUT Bliss

Is ignorance bliss? Maybe in some circumstances, but certainly NOT when we are considering mankind's spiritual condition. Paul will spend a significant amount of ink in the upcoming chapters of Romans explaining just how sinful sin is and how all people are not only guilty of it but responsible for it. The assessment is that man in his fallen state is wretchedly depraved and because of that, under the wrath of God. Man needs to know the seriousness of sin and its ramifications and Paul does not mince words pointing it out – but he does so for a very specific reason. He is not railing against mankind, but he is making the case for the Gospel. Man needs to know his sin, guilt and helplessness, in order to know his need for a mediator to reconcile him to a holy and offended God. While today's segment deals primarily with the wretchedness of pagan Gentiles and the gross extent to which their spiritual darkness takes them, we will soon discover that Jews and Gentiles, moralists and immoralists, the self-loathing and the self-righteous, the wise and the foolish are all in desperate need of a righteousness that they cannot attain on their own. But God in His mercy provides all that is necessary for salvation through His righteous son Jesus. This is the Gospel offered to sinners – a righteousness that is to be received by faith in Jesus Christ – and salvation to all who believe. No wonder Paul was unashamed of such good news and so eager to preach it!