

## **I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel**

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**AM Service**

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**Text:** [Romans 1:13-18](#)

### **Introduction**

We live in a world in which men are either skeptical or critical or downright dismissive of the gospel. Most people, not only have no interest in the gospel but they have a negative attitude towards it. There are those who despise it; there are those who ridicule it, there are those who reject it, and there are those who hate it. That was the attitude of most people in Paul's day when he wrote this letter to the Romans.

[1 Corinthians 1:18](#) For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. [19:](#) For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. [20:](#) Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? [21:](#) For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. [22:](#) For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: [23:](#) But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

### **To the Jews the gospel is a stumbling block.**

The Jews have been looking for the coming of the Messiah; a great political deliverer and ruler setting up an earthly kingdom. But instead they were being offered in the gospel a Messiah that was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief; wounded, bruised and chastised; oppressed and afflicted and brought as a lamb to the slaughter. That was a stumbling block to the Jews. They reject the idea that Jesus was the Messiah.

### **To the Greeks (Gentiles) the gospel is foolishness.**

The Greeks are infatuated with intellect. They pride in their human wisdom and knowledge. The gospel is foolishness to them because it is an insult to their intelligence. The gospel is foolishness to them. The word "**foolishness**" is the word "**moria**" from which we get the English word "**moron**."

The Gospel offends their pride of intellect. Remember, Paul is writing to Rome, the master of the world. And what is his message? He proclaims a despised and rejected Nazarene, crucified on a cross as a common criminal and Paul is calling the Greeks and the Romans to submit to this Jewish man called Jesus.

John Blanchard puts it this way ..

*“The Greeks says, You have to be a moron to believe that. The death of a young man in his early 30’s and a Jew, to make matters worse, could have anything to do with relationship with a man with his Maker. That in some way the death of this young Jew on a Roman cross outside the city wall of Jerusalem that that .... is a way to be made right with God, well, you would have to be a fool to believe that. It was moronic for the person to believe such a thing. And in 2000 years nothing has changed. Even among those who give lip service to the idea of there being a God, even those who acknowledge that Jesus was the Son of God; that He came into the world; was born of a virgin; who lived a perfect life; died on the cross; rose again from the death; even who would accept all of those things happened historically ... the matter of the shed blood of Christ as the means of our salvation is abhorrent to their thinking. They cannot stand the sight of blood.”*

The gospel insults their intelligence; it offends them; it strikes a blow at their pride. That is the attitude that the world in which Paul is writing. But **the Apostle Paul will not be intimidated**; he will not be stopped from preaching the gospel. People may despise it, people may hate it, people may not receive it, regardless, he is ready to preach the gospel and he is not ashamed of the gospel. Can you say with Paul that you are not ashamed of the gospel of Christ?

Why is Paul not ashamed of the gospel? Consider with me **four reasons why Paul and why you and I should not be ashamed of the gospel.**

### **I - The Source of the Gospel**

Paul is not ashamed and we too should not be, because of the source of the gospel. Who is the **source** of the gospel? Who is the **author** of the gospel? Who is the **origin** of the gospel? Understand that the source of something is very important? We know that in the day and age we live in, the source of any news is important. Today, you do not know if the news you are getting on tv are accurate news or fake news. But thank God, the gospel, the good news is accurate news because its origin is God Himself. **This gospel is trustworthy because of its source.**

[Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto \*\*the gospel of God,\*\*](#)

The gospel that Paul preached and the gospel we preach here at Grace & Truth is the gospel of God.

[Romans 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20: For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:](#)

Not only is He the source of everything we see, He is also the source of the gospel we believe.

It is the gospel of God. The message of the gospel did not originate from the pope, from any preacher or pastor, or any church or denomination. Ultimately the gospel is planned and prepared

by God. It is God's message. Paul was fully aware of this and we should all be. We are not the originator of the gospel just a proclaimer.

John 3:16 **For God** so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:8 **But God** commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which **God**, that cannot lie, **promised before the world began**;

The **gospel is sourced and rooted in God Himself**. It began in the infinite heart of God in the eternity past. The gospel is not a human plan to rescuing himself or reaching up to God. The gospel is a divine plan reaching down to man.

Psalm 3:8 **Salvation belongeth unto the LORD**: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.

Revelation 7:10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, **Salvation to our God** which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

**It is to God and to God alone** that the Christian owes his salvation, regeneration, sanctification, redemption, glorification. That is the gospel, that is why Paul is not ashamed of it. We should never ever be ashamed of the gospel because it is the gospel of God; because **to be ashamed of the gospel of God is to be ashamed of the God of the gospel**.

## **II - The Subject of the Gospel**

Paul is not ashamed and we too should not be, because of the subject of the gospel. What is the gospel all about or who is the gospel all about?

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, 2: (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) 3: **Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord**, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4: And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

The gospel is called the gospel of God because it comes from God and brings us to God. The gospel is the gospel of Jesus Christ because **it centers in Christ**. Jesus Christ is the heart of it. Without His life, death, and resurrection, there would be no good news. There is only one Gospel, and it centers in what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross.

1 Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2: By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3: For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the

scriptures; 4: And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

The gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The gospel is everything Jesus is, everything He said, and everything He did. **The gospel is all about Jesus Christ.** This is why Paul and this why we should not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ because its source and because of its subject.

### III - The Strength of the Gospel

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

The third reason Paul is not ashamed of the gospel is because of its strength. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

The word “**power**” is the word “**dunamis**”, from which we get our English word **dynamite**. If we have dynamite explode in our midst, it will rearrange everything in this auditorium. That’s what dynamite does. **It has explosive power.** As powerful as dynamites are, **the gospel is infinitely more powerful than a dynamite.** A dynamite when it explodes rearranges things and leaves chaos and ruins. But the gospel’s explosive power rather than ruins and destroys **it rearranges lives and transforms lives.** The good news of Jesus Christ is power.

It is the power in the sense that God is the source of an incredible power, a limitless power that can transform lives. The gospel has the strength, power and ability to transform lives.

1 Corinthians 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10: Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11: And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Paul is not a Universalist. Paul does not believe that all men will be saved regardless of how they live their lives. God’s judgment is real and clear. God will judge sin forever and unrighteous will enter heaven.

Paul wanted the Corinthians to know that the wicked, the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God. The fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortionist, shall enter heaven. These people, he says, will not inherit the kingdom of God. But listen to what he says next, **that was some of you were.** These men were changed and transformed though the power of the gospel.

**Are you ashamed of the gospel that can do that?** The gospel that can point to this Corinthians who were some time wicked and unrighteous but something happened to them; they have been washed, they have been justified, they have been sanctified, they have made clean, and the power of the gospel has done it.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

To those who are perishing the gospel is weakness; it is foolishness; it is a stumbling block but to us who are saved, it is the power of God.

#### **IV – The Scope of the Gospel**

To whom is the gospel for? To whom is the offer of the gospel for?

Romans 1:17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17: For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

The offer of salvation in Christ is available to anyone.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

**The gospel is sufficient for all but it's efficient only to those who believe.**

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even **to them that believe on his name**:

John 3:18 **He that believeth on him** is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36 **He that believeth on the Son** hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Acts 16:31 And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

It is not church attendance, nor the sacraments, nor church membership, nor tradition, nor money given in an offering plate. **It is taking your life and placing it in the hands of Jesus.** It is coming to Christ, trusting Him only for your salvation. **Come to Him having nothing, accept Him for everything.**

#### **Closing Thoughts**

Paul is not ashamed of the gospel of Christ because of its source, because of its subject, because of its strength, and because of its scope. If you are a born again Christian today, oh how you should not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ. And how you should be singing ...

*Thank you Lord for saving my soul,  
Thank you Lord for making me whole  
Thank you Lord for giving to me  
Thy great salvation so rich and free!*

Can you say with Paul today, *“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ and I am ready to preach the gospel.”* This is the reason why this church exists. There’s a lot of people that need to hear the gospel and there’s a lot of people that need to receive it.

Maybe you are one of them. Won’t you come to Christ? Won’t you be saved, today? Won’t you let Him change your life? Come to Christ. Come to Christ and experience the strength and the power of the gospel. **Even this very day** you can call upon the name of the Lord and be saved through repentance and faith and **experience the power of gospel** and **experience the love and the mercy and the grace and the forgiveness of God.**

**AMEN!**