

The Book of Romans  
"The Gospel That Saves"  
Romans 1:16,17

Introduction

1. Some people are enveloped in the shroud of intellectual, social, and moral shame. This is a grave danger.

2. Others who are believers are also at times caught in the web of shame. How tragic when true servants of God are ashamed of what is right!

3. Opinion, precedent, etc. are often the traps which Satan uses to drag persons down to the feeling of shame. But the work of the Holy Spirit in the life makes one unashamed. This was so of Paul and the Gospel of Christ.

4. What were the reasons why Paul was so unashamed of the Gospel? Let us list them and take genuine courage ourselves:

1. Because of the POWER OF THE GOSPEL.

"It is the power of God."

Writing for Romans, this had some real meaning. The word speaks of the intrinsic worth of the Gospel. Greek term is the one from which we get our English dynamo, dynamite, etc. Speaks of the source more than the process of the power. It is a real and related force! The Gospel has all the omnipotence of a personal God behind it.

2. Because of the PURPOSE OF THE GOSPEL.

"unto salvation."

Here is the goal of God's power in the Gospel. Not destruction, but salvation! Salvation means health and the removal from that which menaces life and conditions favourable to free and healthy expansion.

3. Because of the AVAILABILITY OF THE GOSPEL.

"to everyone that believeth."

The terms of the Gospel are not complicated. It all hinges on belief! Faith is the consent of the mind and the heart.

Faith is acting upon the word of another. It is the golden word of the Gospel. To add any condition to this one basic requirement is to clutter up the Gospel terms. This is the great subjective element in reaching heaven!

4. Because of the UNIVERSALITY OF THE GOSPEL,  
"to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

Here is a great principle: Jewish precedence, but not Jewish preference. No nation had the Gospel before the Jews in point of time, but no nation is to have the Gospel except the Jews in point of opportunity. God no longer speaks to men as Jews or Gentiles but as individuals who need Christ! There is absolutely NO racial preference in the Gospel!

5. Because of the CHARACTER OF THE GOSPEL,  
"revealed."

This simple verb connotes the Gospel as an unveiling from God and not a reasoning of men. The Gospel is not the figment of men's doing, but the direct notification of heaven concerning salvation. If this is not accepted, then the danger of a watered down Bible is overwhelming.

6. Because of the CONTENTS OF THE GOSPEL,  
"righteousness of God."

The Gospel is the actual unveiling of a kind of righteousness which is not known among men. It is a God-kind of righteousness. It is a righteousness which God provides and pledges to effectuate.

Conclusion; Paul had plenty of reason for not being ashamed of the Gospel. The point is--what about you? Are you ashamed of it? More than that; do you personally know the power of the Gospel? Oh, may the blessed Holy Spirit speak to your heart and persuade you to know and trust Christ so you may also say: I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. Amen.