

Romans 1:16~17

I must begin, by asking for a *special anointing* of the Holy Spirit upon me this morning... For these two verses before us, contain enough theological truth, that a man could preach these two verses for the remainder of his life... Paul will spend, the remainder of his letter, *explaining* these two statements he makes here in verses 16~17.

These two verses hold the answers to the most important question in life...

Q: **What** makes a person *right* with God?

(Bulletin... Good illustration of sin. Try as you may, you'll never remove grease and grime with just water.)

Paul states... The "*Gospel of Christ*" has what it takes, to make us right with God!

(Vs 16) ¹⁶For 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.

...for it is the *power* of God unto salvation... ($\delta\omicron\omicron\theta-\nu\alpha\mu-\iota\sigma$)

It means...*force* (literally or figuratively); specifically miraculous *power*... It is the word from which we get our English word... (dynamite).

★ Paul states, That "**INSIDE**" the confines of this message, that contained in the "*gospel of Christ*", "**IN IT**" is the "**VERY POWER**" of God!

When Christ is preached... **God's Power** is "Released!"

What Power? ..it is the power of God unto salvation... The power to change lives...

The writer here, was "*radically*" changed by this message that he now so dearly loves... He says that he is not ashamed... insinuating that just *the opposite* is true. Paul is "*proud*" to be a Christian...

That he counts it a great honor to be identified with both the man & message of the gospel!

Q: ¹⁶For I am *not ashamed* of the gospel of Christ:
Are you *ashamed* of Christ & His message?

How we answer that question, might well determine where we spend eternity...

(Mark 8:38) **For Jesus said**...³⁸ *Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.*

Paul "*Boldly*" makes this claim, in the context of proclaiming it to the lost of this world...

¹⁵So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:

The "*Rejection*" of this message in the world... (The Gospel sets you apart...)

In way of personal testimony... I had a tuff time, sharing my faith with others...

Not at church, but outside the church is where I had trouble. I tried using all kinds of excuses.

I tried to use, "*I don't know enough*..."

Then I tried to use, "*The fact that I was just shy.*"

But when I really searched my heart for the truth, what it all came down to, was that *I was worried what people would say or think about me*... I was "*ashamed of the gospel*..."

And really, that's what it all comes down to... Is the gospel true? Does it really change lives? Is it the source of eternal life? Is it what makes a person right with God?

Whether or not something is true, something is real, is determined by the results it produces. In the case of the "*gospel of Christ*", the question is, does it make a man or woman right with God?

There are people who will argue, that the bible is not true, that it is not real! But, because the bible is truth, they often do not attack it, but rather they point to the lives of those who profess to be believers, but live in disobedience. They point to the *church go'er*, who attends church on Sunday, but you wouldn't know it, seeing them outside the church.

People may doubt the "*validity*" of the gospel based on such a person...

But, It is "No Fault" of the gospel if a man be a hypocrite... For it speaks not of the inadequacy of the gospel, but rather to the unregenerate heart of the man!

The "*Gospel*" is a "*Life Changing*" message!

I want to challenge the skeptics, to explain "*the change*" that's taken place in the lives of so many who have truly been changed!

It never ceases to amaze me, of the affects the *gospel* has in the lives of people... It's hard to believe, that just *mere words* can have such an effect on someone.

A passage of scripture that often comes to mind, is that recorded in 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, ¹⁰Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioner, shall inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And 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.*

The "*Life Changing*" power of the Gospel!

¹¹*And such were some of you:* It's amazing, what the gospel can do in a life of a person! Mere words!

God can take a life, that is a "*Mess*" and work a "*Miracle*" in it, through the "*Gospel of Christ!*" No one is beyond its reach; no one is beyond help, **no one!** What a "*Joy*" it is for me, to share the "*good news*" with all who will listen!

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;*

The problem today is the definition of a "*believer*..." The gospel is not in question, the power of God is not in question, but the only question is whether "*we believe*" or not!

If there's no change...there's no Christ! I can attest to the truth of that statement, in that I lived 25 years on my own, lost without Christ. Now if you had asked me, if I believed in God, I would have told you yes... But my life told a much different story... My life of *unfaithfulness to God*, of *disobedience* to His commands... simply told a story of my need for Christ!

The term *Christian*, has lost much of it's meaning, it is being re-defined in today's society.

And I put the full blame on us preachers!

For this is a result of the lack of strong, biblical preaching of the Word of God...

Due to a "lack of the word" there is an "abundance of the world."

"*Worldliness*" has taken a stronghold in the church today...

We are living in a very dangerous time in the history of the church... Because of "*Worldliness of the Church*" today, there are varying philosophies of what it means to be a Christian. Many have the philosophy and mindset, "*nobodies perfect*", that we are to do the best we can, go to church, do right, and God is pleased with that... It's almost to the point, that anyone who attends church, without any regard to their lifestyle, is considered a Christian.

Well, that kind of "faith" may produce, good, kind, moral people... But that theology leaves out one very important thing... **Christ! The power of God!**

Christianity **is** "*Christ in us!*"

★ Instead of looking at my life, and defining *Christianity*, one should first define the Christianity of the gospel, **then** look to my life!

...By their fruits, you shall know them... Jesus taught his disciples to "*look at the lives of those who profess to know God*" in order to determine whether or not they truly do! His point was, our lives would reveal if Christ was in us, or we were manifesting our depraved human nature! You see, we on our own accord can't produce "*righteousness*..." Only Christ can...

Now days, someone can be disobedient, unfaithful, to God. A lover of this world... And that person is often described as a Christian who is cold or indifferent, whatever...

It could be, that that old boy, has an unregenerate heart! A heart that still loves this world, and the things of this world... a heart that has never "*experienced*" the *life changing* power of the Gospel!

Quoting 1John 2:15~17...¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abides forever.

If a mans life manifest "*little*" or no interest in the Lord, but manifest that he loves the world... It might be better to consider the possibility that he may possess an "*unregenerate heart!*" Instead of saying he's just cold or indifferent, according to scripture, his life may be manifesting that man is in desperate need of a changed heart," which only comes through genuine faith in Christ!

The "*Gospel of Christ*" is a **life-changing** message!

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**;*

Salvation means to be “*rescued*” . . . The bible teaches, we all are sinners, held in bondage by sin, with no way of escaping on our own! We are hopelessly trapped!

The “*Good News of God*” is, that Christ Jesus came into the world, to save sinners!

This passage answers the question. . . **Is God able to save us from Sin?**

Though I “do doubt” man’s ability to change himself, I have “No Doubt” God can change him!

For the past 14 years, God has been *faithful* to me. . . even though, I’ve not always been faithful as I should be to him. . . The Power contained in the gospel of Christ, has the power to save me! The same God that saves me, keeps me. . . I would be afraid of a God that is not able to keep me!