**Romans 1:16-17**

**Introduction**

Read Romans 1:16-17

Paul begins his book to the Romans by thanking God for them and informing them he prays for them (1:8-10). He has not been able to travel to Rome and meet many of them although he knows some of them (see Rom 16). He hopes to come soon (1:13-15). Paul makes a powerful statement about the gospel in 1:16-17.

Paul mentions the gospel four (4) times in 1:1-17:

* Gospel of God (1:1)
* Gospel of His Son (1:9)
* Preach the gospel (1:15)
* Not ashamed (1:16)

**1. Paul is not ashamed of the gospel**

The gospel is always going to be despised by those who refuse to accept it. Remember, what Paul told the Corinthian brethren: Christ crucified is a stumbling block and foolishness (1 Cor 1:22-23). The 1st Century world felt the gospel did not make sense. The idea of a suffering savior was not something they world wanted to accept. It was foolish to them. There are two reasons why Paul states that he is not ashamed of the gospel: (a) it is the power of God for salvation and (b) it is open to all.

a) Gospel is the power of God for Salvation

* 1:16

Paul is not ashamed because the gospel of Jesus Christ is the only means of saving humanity! He will not be ashamed of the thing that can lead to life!

God’s power is seen in the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead (1:4). ***In the gospel we see the power of God at work in the world.*** It is because of Jesus that death is not the end. The gospel gives life. The power that raised Jesus from the dead will one day raise us all! And we will not stand before the world to give an account, but before our Creator. God righteousness is shown in the gospel (1:17) but the world’s unrighteousness is seen (1:18).

***Since gospel leads to life…*** Paul wants to bear fruit and declare gospel (1:13-15)

* Bear fruit (1:13)
* Preach to everyone (1:14)
* Eager (1:15)

b) Gospel is open to all

***Paul is not ashamed of the gospel because it shows the power of God and leads to salvation. He is not ashamed of the gospel because it is open to everyone.*** Everyone who believes can receive the gospel message. It is to the Greeks and barbarians, for the wise and foolish, (1:14), Jews and Greeks (1:16). Anyone can choose to live a righteous life of faith (1:17).

Paul emphasis in Romans 1-3 that all (Greek *pas* same word translated everyone in 1:16) have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory, but he first wants to begin by emphasizing that salvation is open to everyone. ***We have sinned but Jesus is the cure.***

**2. Not ashamed even when it cost him**

* 2 Timothy 1:8: Tells Timothy not to be ashamed
* 2 Timothy 1:12: Paul says he is not ashamed

Many today may reject the gospel because it is “outdated.” The morals it espouses are not in line with how many want to conduct themselves and they seek to promote what God has called sin. We are told to keep our faith to ourselves while everyone else promotes their agenda. ***In a world that rejects the gospel are we excited to proclaim it? Are we proud to say we serve Jesus?*** Paul lived in a world hostel to the gospel but was not ashamed of the gospel! Why is Paul not ashamed?

a) If we are ashamed of Jesus…

* Mk 8:38 (Lk 9:26)

b) Ones God is looking for…

* Hebrews 2:11: Those sanctified (purified/made holy)
* Hebrews 11:16: Living by faith, looking for home with God (see Rom 1:17)

**Let us…**

* Not be ashamed of Gospel (God’s power and salvation)
* Eager to share gospel and declare we are followers of Him
* No shame even when it may cost us
* Living by faith
* Bold in standing for Him