



Bible Study – January 17, 2024

Series: A Study About Sharing Your Faith

Lesson 4: We Are Not Ashamed - Romans 1:16-17 (NKJV)

Introduction

More than 40 years ago, gospel artist Andrae Crouch released an album entitled “Finally.” One of the songs featured on that album was “We Are Not Ashamed,” which summarized Romans 16:1. I like this song because it proclaims the power of GOD’S word and saints' courage when sharing the gospel. When you listen to it, an inspiration exudes your heart to what Jesus said, “GO!” This two-letter word is the command of the great commission to the church then and now. So, with readiness, let us see why we are not ashamed to share our faith with others.

The Gospel of Christ | Romans 1:16 (a)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ... [Romans 1:16 (a)]

As you read through the beginning of the Book of Romans, it is noticeable that the gospel is significant and is the theme of this book. The gospel is the main thing Paul urges the church to do. Even today, this is still the most critical work of the Christian church. Paul desires the church to proclaim that it is not ashamed of this gospel. Why? Because Jesus said these words: *“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”* (Mark 8:38 NKJV)

What does the word *ashamed* mean? This word suggests being afraid to speak about or suffer for Jesus and His gospel in this sinful world. Paul emphasizes that he is not ashamed of Christ or His gospel. He makes this point very clear in writing Timothy in the following verse: *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me, His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God...* (2 Timothy 1:8 NKJV) Paul encouraged Timothy, as well as, the church to share in his suffering for the gospel.

Q. How often does Paul mention “gospel” in the first 17 verses of Romans 1?



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The Power of GOD to Salvation | Romans 1:16 (b)

For it is the power of GOD to salvation for everyone who believes... [*Romans 1:16 (b)*]

The heart and soul of the gospel rest and abide in the power of GOD saving people. It is the endless resources of GOD at work towards the goal of salvation in the life of everyone who believes. We cannot understand how GOD moves people into His glorious kingdom. But He uses His saints to share their faith to plant and water the seed of faith to stir spiritual growth. And when people hear a testimony, they believe and act on it. Salvation means that people are saved from GOD'S judgment and punishment because of sin. Paul stated that this is the power of GOD for those who are saved [*1 Corinthians 1:18(b)*].

Q. Tell of a time you shared your testimony only to see the power of GOD affect that person to want salvation.

For All Nationalities of People | Romans 1:16 (c)

For the Jew first and also the Greek. [*Romans 1:16 (c)*]

It is true when the Scriptures tell us that GOD shows no favoritism or partiality (*Romans 2:11*). So, why does this Scripture verse say that the gospel was for the Jew first? It all began with the covenant made to Abraham by GOD. He told Abraham that he would make Him the father of many nations. Not naturally, but spiritually would this promise be accomplished (*Genesis 17:1-8*). Jesus Christ said to the woman at the well that salvation was of the Jews (*John 4:22*). Again, signifying that the gospel began with the Jewish people. And let us not forget that Jesus was born Jewish according to the Scriptures (*Matthew 1:1-17*).

However, Paul clarified that the gospel is equally for the non-Jewish people (expressed here as the Greek). We know specifically that the Greek people are a particular nationality. But the term used here is for all the nations of the world who are not Jewish by descent. The gospel of Christ is for the world as a whole to those who believe it.

Q. Tell of a time when you had the opportunity to share the gospel with someone of a different race or nationality. What were the results?



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Faith to Faith | Romans 1:17 (a)

For in it the righteousness of GOD is revealed from faith to faith... [*Romans 1:17 (a)*]

Paul makes a keen point when he proclaims that in the salvation of GOD, the righteousness of Him is made known from faith that sparks faith within the soul. This is a profound point that is established upon absolute trust in GOD. This is His righteousness shared with people based on their response to the gospel message. This faith cannot be obtained by human achievement or effort. For the sake of understanding, this is exclusively GOD’S righteousness. In answer to faith, this kind of righteousness is accounted for by GOD in justification (grace), offered in regeneration (new life), and sanctification (holiness) that ends in glorification (true Christ-likeness). [*Read Romans 8:28-30*]

Q. What impresses you about this point made by Paul the apostle?

The Just Live by Faith | Romans 1:17 (b)

As it is written, “*The just shall live by faith.*” [*Romans 1:17 (b)*]

Paul quotes *Habakkuk 2:4* to conclude his writing about the gospel of Christ. As a result of faith in Jesus Christ, a person is declared righteous by GOD and is given eternal life in the kingdom of GOD (*See Romans 3:21-26*). Thank GOD for Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Q. How often are “faith” and “righteousness” mentioned in Romans 3:21-26?

Endnotes

1. Drs. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary New Testament* (Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1983), 441.
2. Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture is taken from *The Holy Bible, New King James Version®*, NKJV®, Copyright©1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved.