

UNASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

By Keith Greer

“I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” {Romans 1:14-17} What about the gospel did Paul recognize that gave him deep conviction to share it with others?

From Christ. “But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.” {Galatians 1:11,12} Paul knew from personal experience that the gospel was divinely authored. He understood that it contained the words of life {John 6:63-68}. Jesus committed the gospel to Paul’s trust, and Paul wanted to share it with those who most needed it – sinners {1 Timothy 1:9-11}.

God’s power to save. “Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.” {Acts 18:8} Paul witnessed it over and over again during his preaching journeys. Wherever the gospel was preached and men believed and obeyed, God saved them. He understood the power contained in these words that could turn wasted lives into useful and profitable ones.

For everyone who believes. “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.’” {Acts 10:34,35} Jew or Gentile, bond or free, male or female, it does not matter; all have the same opportunity. God’s power is not limited to one nation or race. Wherever men willingly accept the gospel’s conditions, God willingly receives them.

God’s righteousness revealed. “My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness.” {Psalm 119:172} God revealed His righteousness to men {1 Corinthians 2:9-13}. Only by accepting that revealed righteousness can they know that He will accept the things they offer back to Him. Sadly, some sought to establish their own righteousness. {Romans 10:1-3} Man’s own righteousness has no power and cannot save; it keeps him in bondage to sin.

Life-changing. “Although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” {1 Timothy 1:13-15} Paul was living proof of the change that could be brought about through acceptance of the gospel. Only God’s word has the power to change’s one’s life.

The criterion of judgment. "In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel." {Romans 2:16} Jesus assured us of this truth when He walked among men. {John 12:48} At the judgment seat, in what condition will one who was ashamed of Christ's words find himself? {2 Corinthians 5:10,11} How do you view the gospel? Do you mediate upon it's precepts on a daily basis? Do you seek to conform your life to the teachings contained within those pages? Do you love with all your heart? Are you presently ashamed of it? If so, I hope you will reconsider. ***