Message Outline

THE GOSPEL WORTH RECEIVING & SHARING

Romans 1:16-17

Romans 1:16-17 (CSB)

[16] For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. [17] For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith.

A. Two Questions About Not to be Ashamed of the Gospel

1. **What is the Gospel?**
   The Greek word for gospel is, "evangelion." This simply means "good news." It's the gospel or good news of God which he has disclosed to us through the Scriptures and his Son, Jesus Christ.

   [1] Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— [2] which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures— [3] concerning his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was a descendant of David according to the flesh [4] and was appointed to be the powerful Son of God according to the Spirit of holiness by the resurrection of the dead. [5] Through him we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the Gentiles, [6] including you who are also called by Jesus Christ. [7] To all who are in Rome, loved by God, called as saints. (Romans 1:1-7 CSB)

Here are four observations from this passage:

a) First, the gospel that we are talking about is the gospel of God. In other words, it is the gospel according to the Bible.

b) Second, the gospel is all about Jesus Christ, the Son of God who came in flesh, died, and rose again.

c) Third, through Jesus Christ, people are loved by God and called as saints.

d) Fourth, through Jesus Christ, people receive grace and authority to tell other people about this gospel – the obedience of faith so that they too may believe and give glory to God.

2. **What does it mean "not to be ashamed of the Gospel"?**
   The word "ashamed" means "humiliated" or "disgraced."

   Now, when Paul says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel.", he is having full confidence in the gospel. In other words, his trust in the gospel is not misplaced.

   Romans 10:11 (CSB) says, "For the Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes on him will not be put to shame.'"

B. Two Reasons for Not to be Ashamed of the Gospel

1. **It is the Power of God for Salvation.**

   For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16 CSB)

   The word "power" is translated from the Greek word, "dynamus," from which we derive the English word, "dynamite."

The power of God that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that saves people from their sins… This power is the only power that can set people, and you and me free from the other power, the power of sin.

In the latter part of Romans chapter 1, Paul identifies the different manifestations of sin in people's lives.

- Suppressing the truth by unrighteousness (verse 18)
- Not glorifying God and not showing gratitude to God (verse 21)
- Claiming to be wise, they became fools (verse 22)
- Exchanging the glory of the immortal (not subject to death, eternal) God for images resembling mortal (subject to death, temporal) man and other creation (verse 23)
- Sexual immorality [sex outside of marriage as defined by the Bible] (verse 24)
- Exchanging the truth of God for a lie (verse 25)
- Worshiping and serving the creations instead of the Creator (verse 25)
- Practicing sexual relations between the same gender [woman to woman and man to man] (verses 26 and 27)
- Having a corrupt mind filled with unrighteousness, evil, greed, wickedness, envy, murder, quarrels, deceit, malice, gossips, slander, hate of God, arrogance, pride, boastfulness, evil schemes, disobedience to parents, senselessness, untrustworthiness, unloving and unmerciful spirit. (verses 29, 30 and 31)
- Applauding others who practice the same things they do (verse 32)

<u>Illustration: An Expression of Sin - Greed</u>

What is your land? What is the one thing which you firmly trust for your salvation? What is it? What will it take to release you from this thing?

It will take the gospel of God because it is the power of God! No other power can ever free you from this thing other than the gospel of God.

2. In the Gospel is the Righteousness of God Revealed.

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith. (Romans 1:17 CSB)

Dr. Joe Miller, a Biblical Counselor, and a pastor, in his article, "God's Attributes" writes, *"Righteousness means, "being straight, or in a moral sense, being right and conforming to an ethical or moral standard; being and doing what is right; living up to expected obligations; acting in accordance with what should be done." God's holiness distinguishes him as consistent with his own moral characteristics, demands, nature, and will. So, when Scripture declares that God does what is right, it affirms merely that he faithfully exists according to his own perfections, acting according to the very highest principle of justice, which is based on himself. Therefore, all that God is, all that he commands, all that he demands, all that he approves, all that he provides through Christ in the gospel, and all that he does is right (Romans 1:16-17). God's righteousness, love, grace, and mercy will never contradict his justice, for all the attributes of God are united in his holiness and righteousness, as the primary attribute of God's nature and character (Psalms 11:7, John 17:25)."*

To put it simply, because God is righteous, everything he tells you to do…everything he requires from you…everything he approves…everything he gives to you…everything he will reward you…is righteous.

So, in the gospel, through Jesus Christ, despite your "cannots and will-nots", you have been declared righteous by faith if you are already a believer. And, you will be declared righteous by faith, if you believe in Christ even today. As the second part of verse 17 says, "The righteous will live by faith."

Conclusion

What we have received is worth sharing! It's the gospel!

What are we to do now? Will we go out and tell dying people who are amid spiritual famine about this gospel worth receiving and sharing?

D.T. Niles, a missionary, once said that "sharing the Gospel is about one beggar telling other beggars where to find food."

And to a person, who hasn't placed his faith in Jesus Christ, please let me speak to you. I encourage you to believe in him, today!

What must you do now?
(1) Admit that you are a sinner.
(2) Be willing to confess and repent from your sins.
(3) Believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for you and that he rose from the dead.
(4) Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life.

Now, I would like you to repeat this prayer in your heart, if you would like to believe:

"Dear God, thank you for loving me. I know I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I want to turn from my sins. Please forgive me. I believe that your Son, Jesus Christ, died for me and rose from the dead. I now invite you, Jesus, to come into my heart and life. I want to trust you as Savior and follow you as Lord. Amen"

Let me now invite you to come forward and share any decision that you may have.

Jo Kaminaga (Joel)
Tokyo Baptist Church
Dec. 31, 2022 & Jan. 1, 2023

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