

Title: The Righteousness of God

Passage: Romans 1: 16-17

Summary:

Reasons we may be tempted to be ashamed of the Gospel:

1. God's standard for us and His salvation cannot be obtained through our own effort and works.
2. The core of the Gospel is that we are so bad, so sinful, and so dead in our sins that only the perfect Son of God could save us. The only thing we can do is to repent.
3. The solution to our greatest problems in humanity is found in a single Person.

Why we should not be ashamed of the Gospel:

1. The Gospel is Good News
2. The Gospel is the Power of God
3. The Gospel is for Salvation
4. The Gospel is for Everyone
5. The Gospel is for Everyone who Believes
6. The Gospel Reveals the Righteousness of God to Hopeless Sinners
7. The Gospel brings Faith that saves you forever

Passage:

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
 - Where do you struggle in being ashamed of the Gospel?
 - Think about a sin you struggle with - how are you rejecting the Gospel when sinning in that way? How does believing the Gospel transform that struggle the next time?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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Introduction

Question: How can we be right with God?

Ecclesiastes 3:11a

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart

- people either try to fix themselves or try to appease their conscience.
 - Our conscience tells us there is a right and wrong. We try to cope with the guilt.
 - All religions apart from Christianity is based on works-righteousness (get right with God by doing something different or better)
 - Otherwise, people find different causes to appease their consciences (political or ideological).
- But no one can save you from what you feel in your conscience except through righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Passage:

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Context of Passage:

- Paul is writing to the church in Rome with growing conflict between Jewish and Gentile Christians.
 - He is thinking and praying for them and is eager to visit them.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel,

- Why write this? He was tempted to be ashamed of the gospel.
- We are tempted to be ashamed of the gospel.
 - If not ashamed of the gospel, it may be that your understanding of it has never been clear.

Reasons we may be tempted to be ashamed of the Gospel:

1. God's standard for us and His salvation cannot be obtained through our own effort and works.

- We are so spiritually dead that we can only be saved through God as an undeserved gift.
 - This is offensive to those who think of themselves as morally good.
2. The core of the gospel is the message that we are so bad, so sinful, and so dead in our sins so that only the perfect Son of God could save us. The only thing we can do is to repent.
- This is offensive to human pride. You are really not as good as you think.
3. The solution to our greatest problems in humanity is found in a single Person.
- This is offensive to those who want to seek solutions elsewhere.

WHY WE SHOULD NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL:

1. THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS

the gospel

- meaning = "good news"
- How is Jesus good news?

Luke 2:10-11

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Romans 10:15

And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Luke 4:43

but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."

- good news not only brings joy but life change

Proverbs 25:25

Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

Proverbs 15:30

The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and good news refreshes the bones.

2. THE GOSPEL IS THE POWER OF GOD

for it is the power of God

- The Gospel itself is the means by which God accomplishes salvation to those who are being saved.
 - It is not about God's power
 - When proclaimed, they are experiencing the power of God as rescued from the realm of darkness to the realm of light.
 - People are brought from death to life.
- What is the Gospel?
 - God sent His only begotten Son to live the perfect life we could never live and to die on the cross as full payment of the penalty of our sins. He resurrected and is now interceding for those He has called and will return again to ultimately rule over all.
- the power of God rests in the message. Our responsibility is only to

3. THE GOSPEL IS FOR SALVATION

for salvation

- Saved from what? From God's judgment and justice.
 - All will experience eternity without God if do not repent.
- We are each a sinner and will have to give account for our sin before a holy, just God.
 - No matter how small a sin is, it is an affront to God and demands justice with punishment.
 - Our greatest threat is God's judgment over our sin. No one can otherwise save us.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- How does God deal with our greatest problem? God sent His Son.
- How be saved? Believe in Jesus' redeeming work.

4. THE GOSPEL IS FOR EVERYONE

to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek

- Chronological in history:
 - Jesus first came to the Jewish people and then went to the Gentiles.
- Salvation is for everyone
 - regardless of gender, race, or any other characteristic.
- We should not be ashamed of the Gospel, which is universal and applies to everyone.

5. THE GOSPEL IS FOR EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES

- the only pre-requisite is to believe.
- What kind of faith?
 - Not just mental assent (agree intellectually without heart transformation)

James 2:19

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

- We are never saved by works alone but saving faith is never alone.
 - When genuine, it reflects a heart change and results in good works.

6. THE GOSPEL REVEALS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD TO HOPELESS SINNERS

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed

Righteousness

- Misperceptions
 - What is right. (But you'll never achieve it)
- Meaning: Saving activity
 - The salvation of God is revealed from faith for faith.

What does the Old Testament say about "righteousness of God"?

- Isaiah 46-66

Isaiah 46:13

I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off, and my salvation will not delay; I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory."

Isaiah 51:5

My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait.

Isaiah 55:6-8

"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have

compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

Isaiah 51:8

For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool, but my righteousness will be forever, and my salvation to all generations.”

- God’s righteousness is equivalent to His promises that He plans to bring to His people.
- God’s saving activity where He upholds what is right by vindicating His people and delivering them from distress.
 - The way God saves us is clear through the Gospel: God sent Jesus for us so that we can be saved and proclaim to others.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- In context, we become ambassadors for God. We deliver salvation to others on His behalf.

8. THE GOSPEL BRINGS FAITH THAT SAVES YOU FOREVER

from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

- God’s faithfulness to His promises always comes first. Our faith is nothing but a response.
- We are saved not only with our sins forgiven but also credited with what Jesus has done.
 - From faith: faith of Christ (His faithfulness)
 - For faith: our faith
 - Christ’s righteousness is imputed to us.
- Analogy: Not merely a pardon such as a release from prison or death. In addition, also hung around our neck a congressional medal of honor and welcomed as heroes.
 - Jesus did it all on our behalf.

Romans 3:22a

the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

1 Corinthians 1:30

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

APPLICATIONS:

In what situations do you find yourself in being ashamed of the Gospel?

- meditate on God's Word.

Think about the sin you struggle with - how are you rejecting the Gospel when sinning in that way? How does believing the Gospel transform that struggle the next time?

- When we sin, we do not trust in God.

If you died tonight and face the judgment seat of God, on what basis should God allow you into heaven?

- If the answer is "I have...", you will be doomed.
- Truth: one can only point to Jesus. (He saved, gave new life, and rescued)

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.