

*“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’”–Rom. 1:16-17*

I. “I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ...”

- a. This powerful declaration was declared by one of the great heroes and champions of the Christian faith, the apostle Paul
  - i. Before his conversion, the apostle Paul was a persecutor and enemy of the church of Christ
  - ii. With great fervor and passion, he hunted down Christians and caused great havoc against the early church
  - iii. However, one afternoon, as he was traveling to the city of Damascus, Paul had a miraculous encounter with the resurrected Christ
- b. And from that day forward, his life completely changed (\*Isn't that how it always works? \*)
  - i. No longer would Paul persecute the church of Christ, but now he would establish churches in the name of Christ
  - ii. No longer would Paul try to stop the Gospel, but now he would dedicate his entire life to spread the Gospel
  - iii. And from the moment of his conversion, until his death, the apostle Paul would live a life completely sold out for Jesus Christ
  - iv. Single handedly, by the grace of God, he would turn the entire Roman Empire right-side up for the Kingdom of God
  - v. He was a hero of the faith, a champion for Christ, a mighty soldier of the Cross, a devout servant of King Jesus, who accomplished great and mighty things for the Kingdom of God – the apostle Paul
- c. And this powerful declaration found in Romans 1:16 would serve as the theme of his life – “I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel of Christ...”
  - i. And tonight, I believe with all my heart that God is looking for young people who will be *young* and *unashamed* for Jesus Christ
  - ii. During these last days, before the Return of the King, God is searching for young people who will take a stand for Jesus Christ
  - iii. And like the apostle Paul, boldly declare, “*I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel of Christ – I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel*”
  - iv. And tonight, I want to know, “*Who is it going to be? Who is going to be that Person? Who is going to be that young man/woman? Who?*”
  - v. Somebody please tell me...
- d. Listen, young people, now is the time, like never before, to be *young* and *unashamed* of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
  - i. We are living in the last days – evil, sin, rebellion, iniquity, and wickedness is abounding, and abounding, and abounding...

- ii. The enemies of the Cross of Jesus Christ have arisen and they have declared war on Christianity
- iii. Atheism, Agnosticism, Secular Humanism, Evolutionism, Materialism, the list goes on and on of beliefs and ideas that directly attack and oppose the Christian faith and worldview
- e. Like never before, the world is passionate and unashamed for their beliefs!
  - i. Recently, I read an article stating that the British Humanist Association paid a large sum of money to advertise this statement all across London: ***“There’s probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy life”***
  - ii. Amazingly, the same article stated that the American Humanist Association paid a large sum of money to advertise this statement all across Washington D.C.: ***“Why believe in a god? Just be good for goodness’ sake”***
  - iii. Over and over again, article after article, story after story, book after book, I am astounded to find out how passionate non-believers are for their beliefs
  - iv. With great passion, the world is crying out, ***“Truth is not absolute, God does not exist, Jesus was a fraud, the Bible is full of lies”*** – the world is young and unashamed!!
- f. And the question I ask myself over and over again is this, “What about the Christians? What about the Church of Jesus Christ?”
  - i. If the world is so passionate and unashamed for a lie, how much more should we be passionate and unashamed for the truth?
  - ii. It is time for the sleeping Giant to awake from her slumber and declare to the world, ***“We are not Ashamed of the Gospel of Christ”***
  - iii. Tonight, the Holy Spirit is telling us, ***“Wake up, Wake up, put on strength young Christians, take a stand for Christ, take a stand for the Gospel – Don’t be ashamed, don’t be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ”***
  - iv. Now is the time to be *young* and *unashamed* of the Gospel of Christ...
- g. And tonight, I want to talk about being young and unashamed of the Gospel of Christ – “I want to talk about what that means...”
  - i. What does it mean to be not ashamed of the Gospel? What are the implications of being *young* and *unashamed* of the Gospel of Christ?
  - ii. To do this, I briefly want to share ***“four points”*** of what it means to be not ashamed of the Gospel:

## II. 1<sup>st</sup> – “You are not ashamed to study the Gospel”

- a. 2 Timothy 2:15 declares, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”

- i. Sadly, many Christians, young and old, don't even know what the Gospel is or don't even know how to effectively communicate the Gospel
- ii. I often ask young people within church, "***Can you tell me what the Gospel is,***" and many times, they respond by saying, "***Um, no I can't***"
- iii. How am I supposed to be unashamed of the Gospel if I don't even know the Gospel? How am I supposed to share the Gospel if I don't know it?
- iv. Young people, it's time for you to open your bible and start *reading* it and *studying* it and *memorizing* it and *meditating* upon on it
- b. **Don't be ashamed to study the Gospel! To study the Scriptures!**
  - i. **2 Timothy 3:16** declares, "***All Scriptures is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work***"
  - ii. **Hebrews 4:12** declares, "***For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***"
  - iii. **John 10:35** declares, "***...the Scriptures cannot be broken***"
- c. **Now more than ever, we need to go back to the basics and go back to the Word of God**
  - i. Learn to be students of the Word of God – "***Reading your Bible is not a waste of Time!***"
  - ii. It is in the Bible that we learn what the Gospel is – "The Good News about Jesus Christ"
  - iii. Jesus died for our sins according to the Scripture, He was buried, and on the third day, He rose again from the dead according to the Scriptures
  - iv. And now, all those who place their faith and trust in Him, we receive forgiveness of sins and everlasting life
  - v. This is the Glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ!
- d. **Read it! Study it! Memorize it! Meditate upon it! You will like it!**

### III.2<sup>nd</sup> – **"You are not ashamed to share the Gospel"**

- a. **In Mark 16:15, the Lord Jesus declared, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"**
  - i. Also, in **Mathew 28:19a**, the Lord Jesus declared, "***God therefore and make disciples of all nations...***"
  - ii. Every Christian has been commanded and commissioned by King Jesus to share the Gospel to a dark, dying world
  - iii. Therefore, we can't stay quiet, we can't keep our mouth shut, but we have to share and proclaim the Gospel at every opportunity given to us

- b. Don't be ashamed to share the Gospel! Don't be ashamed to tell your friends, your teachers, your neighbors, and your family members the good news of Jesus Christ!
  - i. At every opportunity, you share that forgiveness of sin, salvation, and eternal life is found in Jesus Christ
  - ii. At every opportunity, you share that God loves us so much that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life
  - iii. At every opportunity, you share that on the Cross Jesus conquered the Devil and has the power to set anyone free from the bondage of sin/self
  - iv. At every opportunity, you share the Gospel of Jesus Christ!
- c. Listen, the world is dying, the world is lost, and the world is on its way to hell, and we have the message to save them...
  - i. We have the message that has the power to bring salvation to the sinner, forgiveness to the wicked, love to the forsaken, peace to the restless, and hope to the hopeless
  - ii. With such a powerful message, how can we stay silent? How can we keep our mouth shut? How can we say nothing? Cf. 1 Cor. 9:16b
- d. Don't be ashamed to share the Gospel for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes

#### IV. **3<sup>rd</sup> – “You are not ashamed to stand up for the Gospel”**

- a. In Acts 20:24, the apostle Paul declared, “But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God”
  - i. During these last days, God is looking for a generation who will not be ashamed to stand up for the Gospel of Jesus Christ
  - ii. You see, we live in a generation where young people “run after everything”, but fail to “stand up for something”
  - iii. They go with the flow, they go with the trend, they go with the culture, they go with the public's opinion, they go with the majority
  - iv. Everyone wants to be cool, and sadly, they will do whatever it takes to be cool – even if that means compromising the faith
- b. Because of friends at school, because of a boyfriend, because of a girlfriend, thousands of young Christians are falling into sin everyday
  - i. They fail to stand up for the Gospel of Christ, and thus, they constantly fall for the tricks of the Enemy
  - ii. Young people don't allow that to be you (\*Don't give in to pressure\*) – “***Don't be ashamed to stand up for the Gospel***”
  - iii. Don't be ashamed to say “no” to sin and “yes” to God – be different, be a rebel for Christ and go against the currents of society

- iv. In the midst of a fallen, corrupt world, take a stand for Jesus Christ
  - c. Listen, you don't have to apologize for serving Christ
    - i. If your friends don't understand, if your friends thinks you are a fanatic, if your friends think you are foolish for following Christ
    - ii. Don't apologize for Him – Jesus is above all and you don't have to apologize for Him!
- V. 4<sup>th</sup> – “You are not ashamed to live the Gospel”
- a. Philippians 1:27a declares, “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ...”
    - i. The question we need to ask ourselves tonight is not “*Are we ashamed of the Gospel,*” but “*Is the Gospel ashamed of us?*”
    - ii. You might not be ashamed of the Gospel, but the Gospel might be ashamed of you
    - iii. Sadly, many Christians passionately declared, “*I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel,*” however, because of their lifestyle, the Gospel is ashamed of them
    - iv. They wear the Christian hats, t-shirts, wristbands, they listen to Christian music and sing the songs, but they aren't living the Gospel
  - b. Nothing in their life is consistent with the Gospel message
    - i. In the Bible, the Gospel is described as the *Gospel of Peace* (Rom. 10:15) – But, they are not living in peace with others
    - ii. In the Bible, the Gospel is described as the *Everlasting Gospel* (Rev. 14:6) – But, they are not living for eternity
    - iii. In the Bible, the Gospel is described as the *Gospel of the Kingdom* (Matt. 4:23) – But, they are not investing into the Kingdom of God
    - iv. In the Bible, the Gospel is described as the *Gospel of Jesus Christ* (Mark 1:1) – But, they are not living like Christ
  - c. What good does it do to study, share, and stand up for the Gospel, if we are not living the Gospel?
    - i. Don't tell me you're a Christian, show me you're a Christian – “*The world does not need a new definition of Christianity, but a new demonstration*”
    - ii. Young people, tonight I challenge you to live your life in such a way that without speaking a word you can communicate the Gospel to others
  - d. Don't be ashamed to live the Gospel!
- VI. Therefore, in Romans 1:16 we read the words, “I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ...”
- a. I am not ashamed to study the Gospel, to share the Gospel, to stand up for the Gospel, and to live the Gospel
    - i. Jesus was not ashamed to die for us (cf. Isaiah 50:6; Hebrews 12:2), why should we be ashamed to live for Him?

ii. Don't be Ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ – Let's pray!