

Let Us Never Be Ashamed of the Gospel
(Romans 1:16-17)

Introduction:

1. In vs.16a, the apostle Paul expressed how he felt concerning "*the gospel of Christ*" -- he was not ashamed of it.
2. He continued by giving 2 reasons why he felt as he did.
 - a. According to vs.16b, the Gospel is "*the power of God unto salvation*" -- it will save everyone who believes [including Jews and Gentiles].
 - b. Also, we learn from vs.17 that "*the righteousness of God*" is revealed in the Gospel.
3. We need to follow Paul's example and never be ashamed of the Gospel.
4. Since the Gospel of Christ is so special, we are studying a text of Scripture that reveals some important information about it: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.
5. The first point we need to make is that . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE GOSPEL PLAYS AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN CHRISTIANITY
 - A. (vs.1) Paul was presenting the same message he earlier preached in Corinth.
 1. We read about Paul's work in Corinth in Acts 18.
 2. Some time later, he wrote this letter to the Christians in Corinth.
 3. It is unfortunate, but it had become necessary for him to present the same message he had already taught them.
 4. (vs.3a) Paul did not invent this message -- he had "*received*" it [the Lord had revealed it to him -- Galatians 1:11-12].
 - B. Christians have responsibilities that relate to the Gospel.
 1. (vs.1b) We are to "*stand*" in it.
 2. (vs.2) We are to keep it "*in memory.*"
 - C. The Gospel allows us to enjoy a special blessing.
 1. (vs.2a) It is by the Gospel that we are saved.
 2. This is why we must stand in the Gospel and always keep it in memory.
 - D. These verses show us that the Gospel plays an essential role in Christianity.
 - E. Let us turn our attention to . . .
- II. THE PRIMARY FACTS OF THE GOSPEL
 - A. (vs.3b) First, the death of Christ is mentioned.
 1. Notice that Christ died "*for our sins.*"
 - a. According to Hebrews 2:9, Jesus came in the flesh for this purpose.
 - b. He did not die for His own sins because He had no sin -- He died for our sins.
 2. All of this was "*according to the scriptures*" (see Isaiah 53:4-6).
 - B. (vs.4a) Second, the burial of Christ is mentioned.
 1. An interesting prophecy was made in Isaiah 53:9.
 - a. We know that the Lord was crucified between 2 thieves -- He died with "*the wicked.*"
 - b. He also made His grave with "*the rich.*"
 2. We learn from Matthew 27:57-60 that a rich man named Joseph buried the Lord's body.
 - C. (vs.4b) Third, the resurrection of Christ is mentioned.
 1. He rose from the grave on the 3rd day.
 2. This was "*according to the scriptures*" (Isaiah 53:10).
 3. How do we know that Jesus was resurrected? (Many witnesses saw Him -- vs.5-8).
- III. HOW ARE WE SAVED BY THE GOSPEL?
 - A. This is explained in Romans 6:3-7.
 - B. This is what the people in Corinth did when Paul preached the Gospel to them (Acts 18:8).

Conclusion:

1. Have you been saved by the Gospel?
2. Are you standing in the Gospel and keeping it in memory?
3. Let us never be ashamed of the Gospel.