

The Gospel and God's Righteousness (25)

Pastor Eddie Idefonso

Romans 1:1-17

(Continuation from 01/31/16)

C. Paul's Boldness for Christ: Unashamedness of the Gospel, Romans 1:16-17

Romans 1:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ "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."

¹⁷ "For in it *the* **righteousness** of God is revealed from **faith** to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous *man* shall live by faith."

1. It is the *good news* from God Himself (v.16).
2. It is the power of God to save (v.16).
3. It is the revelation of God's righteousness (v.17).

1. (Romans 1:16) Gospel— Ashamed: Paul was not ashamed of the gospel, because it was the *good news* from God Himself; that is, the gospel is the news that God has given to the world and wants proclaimed to the world.

Romans 1:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ 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.

His message was *considered foolishness to the intellectuals (the Greeks)* and a *stumbling block to his own people (the Jews)*. There were several times in Paul's life when he could have given up in shame and fled to some part of the earth to begin life all over again.

Thought 1. Many are ashamed of the gospel. They are ashamed because they fear **ridicule**, **rejection**, and **loss of recognition**, **position**, and **livelihood**.

They fear **two things** in particular.

1. There is the fear of intellectual shame.

This is the fear that the gospel does not measure up intellectually. It is judged not to be for the scholar or philosopher. **Note:** this feeling is common to those who do not understand the philosophy of the gospel. No greater philosophy exists; no greater reasoning has ever been worked through.

A man holds either to the philosophy and thought of the world, or to the philosophy and thought of God's Son, the gospel of Jesus Christ and His redemption. There is no question which philosophy and intellectual thought is greater.

1 Corinthians 1:25 (NASB) (cp. [Romans 1:18-31](#)).

²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 Corinthians 1:30 (NASB)

³⁰ But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.

Romans 11:33-34 (NASB)

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

³⁴ For Who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor?

1 Corinthians 3:18-20 (NASB)

¹⁸ Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.

¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "He is the one who catches the wise in their craftiness";

²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows the reasonings of the wise, that they are useless."

James 3:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

1 Samuel 2:3 (NASB)

³ Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; For the Lord is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are weighed.

Isaiah 40:28 (NASB)

²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

Daniel 2:22 (NASB)

²² It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him.

2) There is the fear of social shame.

Many fear if they accept and proclaim the gospel, they will be.....

1. ridiculed and mocked
2. left without job and livelihood
3. passed over and cut off
4. rejected and ignored

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Series: The Book of Romans

5. left without family and friends
6. abused and killed

2 Timothy 1:7-9 (NASB)

⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of timidity [fear], but of power and love and discipline [sound mind].

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

⁹ who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

1 Peter 4:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ If you are reviled [reproached] for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Proverbs 29:25 (NASB)

²⁵ The fear of man brings a snare, But he who [putteth] trusts in the Lord will be exalted [safe].

Isaiah 51:12 (NASB)

¹² I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you are afraid of man who dies And of the son of man who is made like grass.