

Journey Through Romans

ROMANS 1:16-17

(Romans 1:16 KJV) "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

1. "For I am not ashamed..."

- a. (Romans 1:15 KJV) "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."
- b. Paul had wanted to go to Rome but was too busy with the ministry elsewhere. He wanted the church to know that he was ready to preach the Gospel in Rome. He wanted them to know that he was not ashamed to preach in Rome, the capital of the Empire.
- c. Are you ashamed to share the Gospel? What about in certain places or with certain people?

2. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ..."

- a. Gospel = good news.
 - i. Greek - euaggelion = Good tiding, or good news. Particularly, the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.
 - ii. English – Gospel = derives originally from the Old English word, *Good-Spell*. *Spell* meant *a discourse, or a tale*. So, Good Talk, or Good News.
- b. Gospel of Christ. Not just the good news of a plan. It is also the good news of a Man.
 - i. (1 Corinthians 15:1-8 KJV) "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time."
 - ii. The Gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ who
 1. Died for our sins
 2. Was buried (proving that he was dead)
 3. Resurrected from the dead on the third day
 4. Was seen alive after his resurrection by many witnesses on different occasions (proving that he arose)

3. "For it is the power of God unto salvation..."

- a. Power = dunames. Often, we preachers say that we get the English word, *dynamite* from *dunames*. That is because of Alfred Nobel who invented dynamite.

- i. Wikipedia, "Nobel originally sold dynamite as "Nobel's Blasting Powder" but decided to change the name to dynamite, from the [Ancient Greek](#) word δύναμις *dýnamis*, meaning "power".^[Wikipedia]
 - b. However, dunames is not the same thing as dynamite. Dynamite blows things up. It destroys things.
 - c. According to the Greek Lexicon, dunames means, *strength, power, ability*. (Thayer's)
 - d. So dunames is the power of God to save sinners, to save lives. Jesus said, (Luke 9:56 KJV) "For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them..."
- 4. **"...to every one that believeth..."**
 - a. "For God so loved the world..." (John 3:16)
 - b. "Sirs, what must I do to be saved? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ..." (Acts 16:30-31)
 - c. "For by grace are ye saved through faith..." (Ephesians 2:8)
 - d. Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Scripture Alone
 - e. What is saving faith?
 - i. Faith and Repentance are commanded by God, and God puts omnipotents back of His commands. God never commands you to do something that He does not give you the ability to do.
 - 1. (Mark 1:14-15 KJV) "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."
 - 2. Repentance is a gift of God. (Acts 11:18 KJV)
 - a. Gentiles: "When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."
 - b. Jews: (Acts 5:31 KJV) "Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."
 - 3. Faith is a gift of God
 - a. (Romans 12:3 KJV) "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."
 - b. "For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - ii. Definition of Faith - (Hebrews 11:1 KJV) "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
 - 1. Faith is assurance. (*Luther's Preface to Romans (Translated by Bro. Andrew Thornton, for the Saint Anselm College Humanities Program)*)
 - a. Faith is not that human illusion and dream that some people think it is. When they hear and talk a lot about faith and yet see that no moral improvement and no good works result from it, they fall into error and say, "Faith is not enough. You must do

works if you want to be virtuous and get to heaven." The result is that, when they hear the Gospel, they stumble and make for themselves with their own powers a concept in their hearts which says, "I believe." This concept they hold to be true faith. But since it is a human fabrication and thought and not an experience of the heart, it accomplishes nothing, and there follows no improvement.

- b. Faith is a work of God in us, which changes us and brings us to birth anew from God (cf. John 1). It kills the old Adam, makes us completely different people in heart, mind, senses, and all our powers, and brings the Holy Spirit with it. What a living, creative, active powerful thing is faith! It is impossible that faith ever stop doing good. Faith doesn't ask whether good works are to be done, but, before it is asked, it has done them. It is always active. Whoever doesn't do such works is without faith; he gropes and searches about him for faith and good works but doesn't know what faith or good works are. Even so, he chatters on with a great many words about faith and good works.
- c. Faith is a living, unshakeable confidence in God's grace; it is so certain, that someone would die a thousand times for it. This kind of trust in and knowledge of God's grace makes a person joyful, confident, and happy with regard to God and all creatures. This is what the Holy Spirit does by faith. Through faith, a person will do good to everyone without coercion, willingly and happily; he will serve everyone, suffer everything for the love and praise of God, who has shown him such grace. It is as impossible to separate works from faith as burning and shining from fire. Therefore be on guard against your own false ideas and against the chatterers who think they are clever enough to make judgements about faith and good works but who are in reality the biggest fools. Ask God to work faith in you; otherwise you will remain eternally without faith, no matter what you try to do or fabricate.

5. **"...to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."**

- a. Ryrie says, "A chronological priority that Paul followed in his ministry. But the Jewish rejection abrogated so that Paul and others turned to the Gentiles." (Ryrie Study Bible)
 - i. (Acts 13:46 KJV) "Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles."

6. **(Romans 1:17 KJV) "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."**

- a. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith

- i. From faith to faith = from the beginning to the end. (Revelation 22:13 KJV) "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."
 - ii. "For therein = within the Gospel"
 - iii. "the righteousness of God revealed"
 - 1. (vs. 18) "For the wrath of God is revealed..."
 - 2. The righteousness of God revealed – Illustration: Luther's Tower Experience
- b. As it is written, The just shall live by faith**
- i. (Habakkuk 2:4 KJV) "Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith."
 - ii. (Galatians 3:11 KJV) "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith."
 - iii. (Hebrews 10:38 KJV) "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."
 - 1. ROMANS – THE JUST
 - 2. GALATIANS – SHALL LIVE
 - 3. HEBREWS – BY FAITH