

I

The Power of the Gospel

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.

¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed
from faith for faith, as it is written,
“The righteous shall live by faith.”

READ | ROMANS 1:16–17

THINK ABOUT

In these two extraordinary verses, Paul presents his theme for the book of Romans and also the theme of his life. In 2 Corinthians 11, Paul details many of the hardships he faced. He mentions that he experienced imprisonment, flogging, lashings, beatings, stoning, shipwrecks, and much more.

Why was Paul willing to go through so much difficulty and never be ashamed when sharing the Gospel? The answer is found in these verses. He knew “the Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” (v. 16). He also knew that in the Gospel, “the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith” (v. 17).

APPLY

Tim Keller said it well, “The Gospel will always cause offense, because it reveals us as having a need that we cannot meet. So we will always be tempted to be ashamed of it.” As believers, we must continually pour ourselves into the depths of God’s Word and His Gospel, reminding ourselves that the Gospel is the power of God for salvation. In believing this Gospel, we receive and experience the righteousness of God.

ASK

When are you most tempted to be ashamed of the Gospel?

Since the Gospel is good news, who are some people in your life with whom you need to share this news?

PRAY

Ask God to search your heart for any area in which you may be ashamed of Him. If you are guilty, confess it.

Praise God that the good news of the Gospel is the power of salvation to everyone who believes.

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SING

“The Gospel” — Ryan Stevenson

THE BIG IDEA

These two verses present the theme of Romans and Paul's rationale for writing this letter. He briefly explores the nature, power, and the equal reach of the Gospel to all who believe—Jews and Gentiles. The righteousness of God is revealed through salvation.

KEY POINTS

Paul is not ashamed of the Gospel (v. 16a).

The Gospel powerfully leads those who believe to repentance (v. 16b).

The righteousness of God is revealed in the Gospel (v. 17).

LIFE APPLICATION

We must not be ashamed of the Gospel that led us to faith in Christ.

The Gospel is powerful to penetrate the hearts of all mankind.

The Gospel is “good news” to all.

DISCUSSION

How can we know if someone is ashamed of the Gospel?

When last did you see the power of the Gospel at work in the salvation of a soul?

What does it mean to be “righteous”?

Why is it important for the “righteous” to live by faith?

“THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL”

Romans 1:16-17

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I AM NOT
ASHAMED
OF THE
GOSPEL

ROMANS 1:16