

The Life-transforming Power of the Gospel

*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. Romans 1:16*

Now why does Paul in verse 16 say that he is "not ashamed of the gospel?" For one, the Gospel of Jesus Christ had been rejected by the Jewish establishment, who intended to shame if not destroy people who believed it. For another, the Gospel was connected with a man who was executed officially as a Roman criminal. That would be enough to make many dismiss the message of Christ as that of a dangerous revolutionary. And it might cause the government to be suspicious that the followers were revolutionaries as well. It might get them arrested. The fact is, it is preaching the Gospel that got Paul executed some eleven years after the writing of this letter. Add to this that it just sounded foolish to many. Case in point, the Roman governor Festus in Acts 26. After Paul relayed to Festus how he was saved having been appeared to by Jesus Christ, Festus lost it and declared that Paul was "out of his mind."

Given all this, there might be a great temptation to be "ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ." There still is the temptation today.

This is why more and more pastors and Christian leaders (so called) are taking great pains to de-emphasize certain parts of Scripture. They are embarrassed to speak of only one way to be saved, they are embarrassed to speak of hell, they are embarrassed to address sin—because these parts of the Gospel are not well-received by our culture.

But Paul is not ashamed. He doesn't care what some people might think about the Gospel - because He had seen Jesus resurrected and knew the Gospel was true.

But most importantly he had no reason to be ashamed because he knew that no matter what people thought, the Gospel was the power of God for salvation. People could only be saved through hearing the message of the complete Gospel. And more than this, the Gospel has the power to change the hearts and minds of people who are offended by Jesus Christ, so that instead of rejecting and mocking the good news of Jesus Christ, those called by the LORD would by faith embrace the Good News.

It is this truth that we must continue to hold to if we are to be the church Christ has called and commissioned us to be.

Now to that purpose, we have made this truth the theme of our 2025 Missions Conference - The Power of the Gospel.

This year's conference begins on Friday evening, March 14, and continues through Sunday morning, March 16. We will have with us and hear from four missionaries which we support, and from Pastor Scott Horne of Redeemer Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Valdosta, Georgia, who will teach us and challenge us from God's Word.

As your pastor, I want to invite and encourage everyone who is a part of Dayspring to make this year's missions conference a priority. You will not want to miss it!

Pastor Dave