

I. Everyone Worships

A. Look to the Heart

B. Idolatry is Our Core Problem

1 Corinthians 10:13-14 (e.g. Phil. 2:14)

¹³ No *temptation* has overtaken you that is not *common to man*. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, *flee from idolatry*.

Key Idea

The Power of the gospel brings righteousness to sinners and transforms idolaters into true worshipers.

II. Shame vs. Pride in the Gospel

Romans 1:16a

¹⁶ For I am not *ashamed* of the gospel...

A. Why are We Tempted to be Ashamed?

1 Corinthians 1:21-25

²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, *the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.* ²² For Jews demand *signs* and Greeks seek *wisdom*, ²³ *but we preach Christ crucified*, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ **but** *to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.* ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

B. God's Power

Romans 1:16b

...for it is the *power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...*

1. For Salvation...

1 Thessalonians 1:4-7

⁴ For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you *not only in word, but also in power* and in *the Holy Spirit* and with *full conviction*. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And *you became imitators* of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

Philippians 1:18b-21

Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that *through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ* this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that *I will not be at all ashamed*, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me *to live is Christ, and to die is gain*.

2. To everyone who believes...

Romans 1:16b-17

...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.*"

Habakkuk 2:4 (Matthew 16:26)

"Behold, *his soul is puffed up*; it is not upright within him, but *the righteous shall live by his faith*."

1 Timothy 1:15-16

¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners*, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, *Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience* as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

III. Gospel Centered Thinking & Living

A. Endurance

Romans 8:31-39

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? *If God is for us, who can be against us?* ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ *Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?* It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?* Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, *in all these things we are more than conquerors* through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

B. Worship

1 Timothy 1:17

To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.