

I. Introduction and review.

II. Don't be ashamed of the gospel. v. 16a

- A. The world pours contempt on those who proclaim the gospel. Acts 28:22 5:41
 - 1. The wise and sophisticated think we are fools. I Co. 1:18,22-23
 - 2. Modernists heap contempt upon us.
 - 3. Postmodernists are offended by us. John 14:6
 - 4. The irreligious hate us.
 - 5. Even those who are religious are offended by us.

- B. Don't be ashamed to proclaim the gospel to all kinds of unbelievers. v. 14
 - 1. Paul was not ashamed to bring the gospel to the marketplace of ideas. v. 14-15
 - 2. You will be tempted to avoid the world's reproach. Mk. 8:38 Lu. 9:26 II Ti. 1:8
 - 3. Jesus teaches you how to deal with the shame of the gospel. Heb. 12:2

- C. Don't be ashamed to proclaim the gospel to professing Christians. v. 15
 - 1. Paul was not ashamed to preach the gospel to the church in Rome.
 - 2. Why would anyone be ashamed to preach the gospel in church?
 - 3. We need the gospel preached to us.

- D. The foolishness of preaching is God's chosen means to promulgate the gospel. 10:17
I Pe. 1:23-25 Js. 1:18 I Co. 1:18,23

III. Be proud of the gospel because it is the power of God for salvation. v. 16b

- A. All people are in need of salvation (rescue).
 - 1. You are by nature spiritually dead in sin and under God's judgment. 1:18-3:20
 - 2. There is no other power which can save you.
 - a. You are unable to save yourself. 3:10f, 20 Jer. 13:23
 - b. The law has no power to save you. 3:20 8:7-8
 - c. Every other religion is impotent.

- B. God graciously saves sinners by means of the gospel of Christ. 5:6 8:3
 - 1. Your salvation is the supreme demonstration of God's power. I Co. 1:18, 24
 - 2. The power in salvation is God's alone. Rom. 8:7-8 I Co. 1:30-31
 - 3. The gospel of Christ is the only way you can be saved. Acts 4:12 John 14
 - 4. The gospel saves you from the penalty, power, and presence of sin. 6:17-18 8:29f

- C. The gospel is for everyone who believes. v. 16c John 3:16 Acts 2:21 Rev. 22:17
 - 1. Everyone who believes the gospel is saved by the gospel. 10:13 John 3:16 1:12
 - 2. The advantage and the need of the Jews. 3:1-2 9:3-5 2:9 11:17f Jo. 1:11 4:22 Acts 1:8 13:45
 - 3. The Gentiles are given equal opportunity. 10:12 3:29-30 Ga. 3:28-29 Eph. 2:11-12
 - 4. Keep preaching the gospel because God's power can save anyone.

IV. Be proud of the gospel because it reveals the righteousness of God. v. 17

- A. How is the righteousness of God displayed in the gospel? v. 17a
 - 1. The one true and holy God demands a perfect righteousness. Ro. 3

2. How then can God be just and forgive sinners?
3. The righteousness of the gospel is found in the cross of Christ. 3:21-26 5:19-21
I Jo. 1:9-2:2 II Co. 5:21 8:9 I Pet. 3:18 Mark 10:45 Phil. 3:9 Isa. 53:4-6 Ga. 3:13
 - a. God provides the very righteousness He demands.
 - b. Jesus has fulfilled the righteous demands of the law. Our guilt was imputed to the Righteous One, Who paid the wages of our sin. 5:9 6:23 II Co. 5:21 8:9
 - c. Jesus' perfect righteousness has been imputed to us. Phil. 3:8-9 Isa. 61:10
 - d. The gospel is as much concerned about righteousness as the law! 10:3-4 3:31
 - e. God is both just and the justifier of the guilty. 3:25-26
4. The gospel reveals this *God-righteousness* which excludes all *man-righteousness*.

B. The righteousness of God is received by faith (alone). v. 17b

1. Justification is by faith alone. Ro. 3:28 Acts 16:31 Eph. 2:8
2. This is the only way God has ever saved His people. 4:1f Hab. 2:4 Ge. 15:6
3. Justification by God's grace *alone* through faith *alone* in Christ *alone* is the heart of the gospel.
4. What is gospel faith?
 - a. Faith is not the one meritorious thing one does to earn God's favor.
 - b. Faith is the channel through which sinners receive Christ's righteousness.
 - c. Your faith itself is a gift of God. You have nothing about which to boast!
Eph. 2:8-9 I Co. 1:30-31 Ga. 6:14

V. Concluding Applications.

Discussion Questions

1. Why might you be tempted to be ashamed of the gospel?
2. Why shouldn't you be afraid to proclaim the gospel?
3. What is the gospel?
4. How is the gospel the power of God?
5. How does the gospel save?
6. How is the gospel to the Jew first?
7. How does the gospel reveal the righteousness of God?
8. What is faith? How does faith save you?
9. How would you answer someone who says that all religions are basically the same?
10. How would answer the person who says that we should try our hardest to live a good life, and then to trust Jesus to make up the difference?