

## Confident Evangelism #2

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Welcome to GraceLife. Last time we considered some scriptural matters that affect the matter of evangelism and how you share the gospel with the lost. What we are trying to do is to lay a basic foundation so that we would develop a God-centered, Scripture-centered confidence that flows from a biblical understanding of key issues when God puts us in a position to declare our faith before unbelievers, whether it is in a one-on-one situation or a group setting. We want to have a God-centered confidence in our evangelism.

I emphasize a God-centered, gospel-centered, Bible-centered confidence. We have no confidence in our own cleverness; no confidence in ourselves. We want to have a confidence where God places the power and that's in the Scriptures and in the power of the cross.

The apostle Paul talked about this whole matter of his confidence and his eagerness on a number of occasions. I want to read just a couple of passages to you. At the very start of the book of Romans, in Romans 1:14, Paul said:

I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. 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.

And then at the end of his life, in 2 Timothy 1:7 as he is encouraging Timothy and passing the baton on to Timothy, Paul says this:

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me, His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God.

That's very interesting—isn't it, where he says "Don't be ashamed." He talks about the power of God and he talks about it in the context of suffering for the gospel. You don't need to be afraid of suffering for the gospel. Sometimes that's what breaks the vial and releases the fragrance of the gospel.

And so if you find yourself facing that kind of pressure, don't run from it, don't let that close your lips, speak all the more if the gospel brings you suffering and you suffer according to the power of God. You serve a Savior who suffered on your behalf, through many tears, and bearing your sins on the cross. We don't run from suffering; we embrace it. If the master suffered, so will the disciple. We don't want to run from that because that's where our power is.

And so in 2 Timothy 1:12, Paul could say this:

For this reason, I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

Absolute confidence in the preserving power of God, absolute confidence, absolute unbent spirit in the face of suffering in the face of even death. If that can be true of Paul in the midst of such difficulties, eagerness, power, and confidence should mark us as we proclaim the gospel.

We have nothing to be ashamed of. We have the only message that can deliver people from eternal damnation. And our souls have been redeemed by the blood of Christ, shed on our behalf, our sinless Lord voluntarily laid down His life to purchase our souls and remove us from the kingdom of darkness and put us into the kingdom of His marvelous light. What do we have to be ashamed of?—that’s unthinkable. We’re not ashamed of the gospel. To the contrary, we proclaim Christ with a supernatural conviction that comes from the testimony of God as He has revealed it in the Bible and is confirmed through the inner witness of the Holy Spirit.

So when we speak, we speak not in confidence of our own natural abilities, but we speak in utter confidence of the power of the gospel and the glory of the cross and the glory of our great Lord Jesus Christ—and we never back down from that. The only shame is when we back away from that when we have opportunity to speak. But speaking the truth about Christ, God forbid that we would ever be ashamed.

So today, what I want to do is finish this two-part series. I want to finish these five truths to remember as you proclaim your faith in Christ, so that you would have greater confidence and greater boldness in your witness.

Last time we looked at two of them. The first point was this (I’m just going to review these very quickly and commend the CD to you if you weren’t here last week). The first point we looked at was: Remember the sufficiency of the Scriptures. The Scriptures are sufficient to lead someone to Christ. God has revealed everything that is necessary for the salvation of a soul in the Scriptures. 2 Timothy 3:15, Paul said to Timothy:

From childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

The Scriptures are sufficient to open the mind of an unbeliever to his lost state and the redeeming power of Christ—you can’t improve upon that. The Scriptures are perfect for salvation.

We also said the Scriptures are sufficient to make you adequate as you witness. Verse 16:

All Scripture is inspired by God, profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.

So that the man of God, the person who would speak the gospel, the person who would stand up for Christ in the midst of opposition, the person who would stand up in the midst of suffering, stand up in the midst of deception, in the midst of compromise, and say, “I will stand for Christ, I will proclaim His blood.” For that kind of man, a man of God, Scriptures make him adequate and equipped for every good work.

Beloved, rest your confidence in the Bible. The Scriptures are adequate, the Scriptures are sufficient, the Scriptures are abundant. You line yourself up under them and behind them as it were. You put the Scriptures out and depend on the power of the gospel.

Secondly we said as you proclaim the gospel that you have to remember the seriousness of sin that is lodged in the human heart of the unbeliever that you are trying to share your faith with. We went into pretty significant detail to simply realize that you face a major hurdle as you share your faith. It is not your own weakness, it is not that there is any defect in the Scripture, but the hurdle that you face is the heart of the unbeliever, the heart of the one who loves darkness more than the light, who refuses to come to the light lest his evil deeds be exposed. The unbeliever cannot evaluate spiritual things properly unless the Spirit of God helps him. 1 Corinthians 2:14 says:

A natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them because they are spiritually appraised.

You might as well go up and talk to the wall because the wall is going to understand as much as the unbeliever does unless the Spirit of God aids him. You have to remember the seriousness of sin so that you will again throw your dependence upon the power of the gospel, the power of the cross, the power of the Holy Spirit to open that darkened mind.

What we said was, left to himself, the sinner is not an equal partner in the pursuit of truth. It is not that he just needs enough evidence built up for him and he’ll say, “Oh, well, of course, I yield to that.” You can give every evidence to a hardened sinner and he’ll just throw it over his shoulder and reject it because he wants to protect his independence from God and his love for sin. So it is not surprising with a heart so gripped by sin, so gripped by the devil, so blind to truth, it is not surprising when an unbeliever rejects your witness.

I want you to lay hold of that because I know what it is like when you share the gospel and someone walks away and just brushes you off. That’s a little discouraging because you want to see fruit from it. We have to understand why that happens.

Hardened in sin, they are not going to listen. When you think about it like that, it could almost drive you to despair and you say, “What’s the point if they are so dead in sin? Why do we even bother? How will my words ever get through to someone who is opposed to those words in his heart?” That is where you come to the third point as we move into new material for today.

### 3. Remember the Saving Gospel

Obviously the way the Bible describes the mind of an unbeliever, you can't have any confidence that he on his own is going to respond and say, "Oh, yes, of course," left to himself. And we all know by our own personal experience, most of us would agree that our own efforts to witness are weak and lacking and flawed. I don't have any confidence in myself to be effective in sharing the gospel. I don't have any confidence in the person I'm trying to share with because I know what the Bible says about his unbelieving heart.

What that should do is make you despair of confidence in any human means. Did you get that? Despair of confidence of any human means. I don't have any confidence in the unbeliever. I don't have any confidence in my own ability.

But, beloved, that is not where our power lies. When you despair of human means, then you start to transfer your dependence and your confidence into the power of God as He has revealed it in the gospel. Yes, you are weak. Yes, sinners are blind and dead to the truth. But—and that's a glorious "BUT"—but, there is supernatural power in the gospel that transcends human limitations. Things that are impossible with man are possible with God.

I want you to turn to 1 Corinthians. In this gospel message that men revile, that they consider foolish, in this word of the cross is where your confidence should lie. You have to remember the saving gospel. 1 Corinthians 1:18 where Paul said:

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God, for it is written "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed, Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness; but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than man and the weakness of God is stronger than man.

I want you to focus your attention on verses 22 and 23 as you think about dealing with the unbelievers who reject Christ in your own circle of witness and influence. Look at what it says: "Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom."

What he is saying is, when I go to preach the gospel, I'm facing an audience that has their own agenda for the discussion. Jews want signs. They want miraculous wonders that would authenticate a messianic claim—that's what they wanted. The Gentiles, they were looking for wisdom in the form of human rhetoric, human eloquence to satisfy their

intellectual pursuits. Paul knew his audience. Paul knew what they wanted. They brought as it were, their own spiritual demands to the table. “You want to preach to me, big boy, here’s what it’s got to be. Give me a sign, give me eloquence, something like that.”

Look at how he approaches that environment in verse 23:

But we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness. But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Paul says, I understand that unregenerate people view what I’m saying as foolishness. But I understand further, deeper, more biblically that God in unseen ways uses a spiritual power that is unleashed in the preaching of the gospel. God accomplishes His purposes by saving those that He has called through the foolishness of the message. So we keep our minds focused on what God is doing and we understand that God, through the saving gospel, is calling out His own. We have the blessed privilege of being an instrument in that.

Paul wasn’t deterred by the fact that these men would only reject in their natural minds what he was saying. He knew that to them it was complete foolishness. “You are going to preach a crucified man? You are going to tell me that this crucified man is the Lord God of the universe and the only savior of mankind? Right! That’s absurd,” they would say.

They wanted their signs, they wanted their rhetoric, and Paul says (and here’s your cue, I’ll say it again for emphasis), Paul in effect says, I know what they want, but I’m not going to give it to them, even though many of them will reject the message and think I’m foolish. I’m going to give them the simple message that Jesus Christ was crucified for the sins of mankind, He was resurrected, and He is the only savior of the world.

In the face of human opposition, Paul stands up like a man of God and preaches the gospel of God.

That is your pattern when you are facing opposition and when you are facing the deadness of souls before you. It is not your job to tell unbelievers what they want to hear. It is not your job to analyze the market as it were and say, “Well, this will probably play well in Peoria or San Fernando,” or whatever. No, beloved, it is your job to tell them the gospel. Stay on that message. Stay on the gospel because God saves sinners as we preach the gospel. He is not going to save them with anything else.

Our fundamental premise as we started this two-part series is that our only concern is to be an effective witness that leads souls to Christ—that’s what we want. If that’s your goal, if that’s what you want, then you have to realize that it is Christ crucified and that’s the only message you have.

But oh, is it powerful. Oh, is it sufficient. Because God, when you honor His word, when you humble your own self, God takes that word which the world despises and in His way and in His time He opens up hearts to believe in Christ. And it's only when you make the cross the centerpiece of your witness that you can expect God to bless your witness with power.

I know that some people like to talk about all kinds of other peripheral issues, politics or evolution or whatever. I'm not going to say anything about that. But just understand that politics and evolution and all that other stuff doesn't save a soul. So you have to ask yourself, "What is it I'm trying to do? What is my heart's passion? What is the ultimate thing I want to do when I have this opportunity before an unbeliever? Do I want to make him a Republican? Or do I want to see God save him from his sins?"

That will narrow the scope of what you want to talk about. And when you narrow the scope down to the gospel, it is going to drive you right back to the sufficient Scriptures, it is that which will inform your discussion. You won't want to talk long about anything else when you remember that point. Charles Spurgeon said this:

*This talking about Christ crucified is said to be archaic and not at all suitable to the refinement of this wonderful age. But our mind is made up, and our foot is put down. If it be foolish to preach up atonement by blood, we will be fools; and if it be madness to stick to the old truth, just as Paul delivered it, we mean to stick to it. For we are persuaded that the cross of Christ, which stumbles so many, and is ridiculed by so many more, is still the power of God and the wisdom of God. Yes, just the old-fashioned truth—if you believe, you shall be saved—that we will stick to, and may God send His blessing upon it according to His own eternal purpose!*

So beloved, just speak the cross, just speak Christ in those opportunities. Make that the focus of the discussion and trust God to do what He wants to do with His Word even if you feel completely weak and inadequate in the process.

Speaking of which, continue on just a little bit in 1 Corinthians 2 and see how this power and this confidence of Paul's fleshed out in his own experience. It is not that Paul was a bombastic witness, an arrogant, condescending man, speaking down, full of himself.

Chapter 2:1, he says:

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of man, but on the power of God.

He was with them in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. I won't ask for a show of hands here, but I know that many of you feel that way, just like I do when it comes

time to share the gospel. You feel your hands getting clammy and your throat starts to dry up and all of that.

Don't let that hinder you. Look back to this example of Paul where in the midst of much weakness and fear and trembling, he spoke forth the gospel and showed that his confidence was in the gospel, not in himself. When God works and saves someone through that kind of witness, the only conclusion that anyone can draw is, that was the power of God. It is better to have someone saved with the demonstration of the power of God and that you say, "Man, I was so weak in that, I couldn't possibly have had anything to do with that." That's great because then God gets all of the glory. The point being that when your throat goes dry and your hands start to tremble, you start to stammer a little bit, don't let that hinder you. Don't step back from that. Just remember the power of the saving gospel and speak.

Let me give you just a little bit of help on this. I want to suggest to you that there are four themes that you want to dwell upon as you are sharing the gospel with an unbeliever. I'm not going to support these with Scriptures. This isn't exhaustive. But these are the talking points you want to have in your mind to know that you are making the right kind of emphasis.

First of all, you want an unbeliever to recognize that *the Bible is the only authority*. We want to make disciples; not get someone to say a prayer. We want an unbeliever to understand that you have to shift your allegiance to a different authority, and the Bible is that authority as God has spoken in His word.

Secondly, you want to be able to communicate, "*Friend, you are a sinner*. The Bible is the only authority and you are a sinner. You have broken the law of God and His judgment is upon you just like it was on me."

Thirdly, *Jesus Christ is the only Savior*.

And fourthly, "*Friend, you must repent and believe in Christ to have your sins forgiven.*"

Now, I hesitate to simplify it that much because I understand that there are other matters that need to be said. But what I'm trying to do is just help you have a track in your mind to run on. You are going to have to flesh out those themes.

But what I want to say to you here in GraceLife, if you come to Grace Community Church, and you pay attention at all to the various teaching that goes on here, you can take those four themes and expand on them and expound on them when the opportunity comes as your discussion progresses in that involvement with the unbeliever.

What I'm trying to do here just by putting it that way is help you step back and see the forest for the trees as it were, see the big picture so that the right themes get emphasized. If you communicated in a conversation to someone who had no prior exposure to the Bible that the Bible is the only authority, that he is a sinner, that Christ is the only Savior

and he needs to repent and believe in Christ in order to have his sins forgiven, you have communicated an awful lot. So don't try to be too overly technical. Don't let the fear of being technical keep you from saying basic things that may be complete news to that unbeliever.

Someone might say, "Can it really be that basic?" You bet it can. Dwight L. Moody was converted when his Sunday school teacher came to his place of work at a shoe store and spoke to him privately. Both of them said later that it was one of the weakest gospel presentations that they had ever heard. Charles Spurgeon was converted by a simple gospel message by an unknown pastor in a virtually empty chapel. John Wesley was converted when someone read a preface from Martin Luther's commentary on the book of Romans in a small group gathering. Martin Luther himself was converted as he studied Romans 1:16 and 17 in the privacy of his own room.

Great men of God converted to Christ under circumstances that would not have seemed very impressive at the time—the same kind of unimpressive circumstances that surround most of us when we share the gospel. Don't underestimate the power of the gospel even when outwardly it doesn't look like it is going to go anywhere.

I say this in love, but I say it with conviction, and hopefully with some measure of penetration by the Spirit of God into your heart, your wit and your clever arguments will not save anyone. But over time, God will save souls as we focus on the gospel even if we don't see immediate results from that conversation. Even when they walk away, you don't have to say, "Oh, that didn't work." That's not true. God honors His word.

We have looked at the sufficiency of Scripture, the seriousness of sin, and the saving gospel. Here's the fourth point to remember to encourage you to be faithful in your evangelism. Everything we have looked at so far has been kind of outward focused. I want to bring it down to your own heart and your own attitudes now.

#### **4. Remember the Spirit of Gentleness**

So far we focused a lot on the predicament of the unbeliever. We understand that God has to change his heart before that person can be saved. But I want to turn your attention now to your own heart as you share your faith. What kind of man, what kind of woman are you going to be in the midst of that conversation?

Some of you like the debate of spiritual discussions that get your juices flowing. You like the give and take of the argument of the discussion, and you like to win.

Others of you, when the conversation doesn't go your way, and you are being embarrassed by someone as you are trying to carry out this discussion, get withdrawn. Maybe you get angry when the unbeliever insults you. Can I remind you that your own attitude is part of the proper approach to evangelism? God speaks specifically to what you are to be like in the midst of those discussions.

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2 Timothy 2: 24 says:

The Lord's bond servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, that perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

1 Peter 3:15:

Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet, with gentleness and reverence.

We don't proclaim the gospel with the spirit of anger. We don't proclaim it with that spirit of force and intimidation—that's the wrong approach. There is a personal, spiritual dimension to this which you have your own responsibility to fulfill.

God calls you to a gentle, patient attitude with the unbeliever as you go through these truths with him. How can you proclaim the gospel of peace with a quarrelsome, bitter spirit? How can you represent the Prince of Peace with antagonism toward the lost? They are not the enemy; they are the mission field. They are where you used to be. You used to be the one who was lost. You used to be the one who was hardened to the gospel. Some of you used to be the blasphemers who cursed the name of Christ.

You take that into the discussion and say to yourself, "He is just like I used to be. I don't want to be harsh with him. I don't want to deal with him that way. I want him to know what God has given to me." God commands that while we are unyielding on matters of the truth, we present it with a gentle spirit. That in itself is supernatural. I want to encourage you never to underestimate the power of that gentle spirit even if your words are few, even if your words are weak, even if your whole mind goes blank.

The power of a gentle spirit pushed me on the first steps toward Christ. I was about 20 years old, working at a cash register at a drug store in my college days. It was late at night. It was around nine o'clock and time for us to close.

And in walks this young girl. I don't even remember if she bought anything or not. She was probably in her teens, very modestly dressed in a long skirt. Her hair was in a long pony tail. She smiled at me, handed me a little gospel tract, one that a lot of people would make fun of these days, and said, "I'd like you to read this." I gave her a condescending smile, kind of shooed her off on her way, and never saw her again.

But beloved, her gentle spirit completely disarmed me. I read that tract and I was exposed to the gospel. There was something about her gentle spirit that spoke to my heart. God used that to work on my mind to cause me to read something that I otherwise would have thrown away.

It was a year or two later before I actually became a Christian, but her gentleness made such an impression on me that here I am, 25 years later, and I can't get it out of my mind.

What I want you to see is that if you are just godly, and you manifest the kind of gentle spirit that Christ manifested when He was here on earth toward people that were lost, the kind of spirit that knows what it is like to weep over Jerusalem, the kind of spirit that Paul could express in Romans 10 and say, "I could almost wish myself accursed if it would save the Jews," *that* kind of broken-hearted love for the lost expresses itself in a spirit of gentleness. That is part of the work of the Spirit of God in your life. That's the kind of standard that you have to hold yourself to.

You cultivate a gentle spirit in your witness that is informed by the fact that you yourself have been delivered from sin. You yourself deserve the judgment of God. You are overwhelmed by the grace of God that He would save someone like you. You are overwhelmed by the glories of heaven that will one day be yours and that you will see the face of the Son of God in person. You are so overwhelmed by that and humbled by that, that it affects the way that you view those who are not in that position.

You say in your heart, "Oh God, if only they too would receive the mercy that you have bestowed upon me. God, would you do that? God, surely you didn't exhaust your mercy when you saved me. Surely the fountain of redeeming grace didn't stop flowing when you saved me from my sins. Oh God, spread that fountain on them. Spread that grace on this person that is in front of me, oh God." And you are able to say, "We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to Christ."

I wonder if we are really as close with God as we think we are until something of that comes out of our hearts. We cannot be satisfied to be filled up with knowledge, biblical knowledge, good, biblical theological knowledge unless it has transformed us to a point that we want to weep over the lost and have that affect the way we talk with them.

You serve a Savior who described Himself in Matthew 11:29 this way: "I am gentle and humble in heart." You are supremely to be like Him. That gentle spirit testifies to the reality of Christ without saying a word.

When you find your anger flaring up in the midst of the witnessing opportunity, something is wrong with you. There is sin in your heart that you have got to deal with. I say this as an encouragement to you to realize that gentle spirit is an important part of being a witness.

And for many of you who are not quick on your feet with an answer when the debate is going on, maybe you don't know all the ins and outs of the arguments for the existence of God or can define words like reconciliation and propitiation just off the top of your head, what I want to say to you is this. Take great encouragement and do not think for a moment that your weakness hinders you from being an effective witness for Christ. Rule that thought out. You can be a kind and sympathetic witness on behalf of a kind and

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sympathetic Savior. Don't underestimate the power of that because for many people, as God is working in their heart, that may be more effective than a brilliantly argued 300 page book on apologetics.

One day when I'm in heaven, maybe I'll glance briefly away from the glory of Christ and see that girl whose gentle spirit handed me a gospel tract. There's no way she could have engaged a theological discussion with many of you, and yet she was an instrument in God's hands and I thank Him for her. You can be used that same way.

And if you *are* equipped with an answer, you *are* good in a debate; the Scriptures still call you to that same spirit of gentleness. Confident evangelism springs from one who has examined his heart before the Lord and makes sure that his own spirit is right.

God forbid that any of us in this room could look condescendingly upon an unbeliever with coldness in our hearts toward him. God forbid! We are to be conduits of the same mercy that we received. If you are conscious of that, it is going to affect your heart.

You have to remember the sufficiency of Scriptures, the seriousness of sin, the saving gospel, and the spirit of gentleness. Final point:

## **5. Remember the Savior's Presence**

Remember the Savior's presence. The encouragement of this should launch you. In light of all the things that we have said about the lostness of the believer, the struggles that we face with our own heart, we could say with the apostle Paul, who is adequate for this? Who is adequate to stand between heaven and hell, talking to an unbeliever who is opposed to everything you say? Who is adequate for that? How can I be effective before men who are hostile to the truth? How am I supposed to maintain a gentle spirit in the face of insults and oppositions?

Praise be to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The provision has been made. In Matthew 28:19, in the midst of His great commission, Jesus says:

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

In the midst of His command to send us out, this Jesus to whom all authority has been given in heaven and on earth, "I am with you always..." As you go and share the gospel, the presence of Christ Himself is with you. Jesus Christ Himself is there to comfort you in the midst of hostility, to give you power and wisdom for your witness, and He is there through the person of the Holy Spirit to work in the heart of that unbeliever. This uncreated Son of God to whom all authority has been given is in the midst of those discussions.

It is an unseen reality that you have to remember. When you do, you can have confidence that God will bless your evangelism over time. Maybe it is not right now. Maybe there is not an instant conversion. Remember what Jesus said about the seeds that sprout out real quickly. He didn't have a whole lot of good things to say about them. So if the result seems slow, that's okay. So with the apostle Paul, settle it in your heart that you will never be ashamed of the gospel.

Let unbelievers insult us, let atheists mock us, let scientists scorn us, let liberals attack us with their books, let the Pope condemn us, let governments try to silence us. And giving voice to our persecuted brethren around the world, let radical Muslims burn our houses and slit our throats. We will still preach Christ crucified. They may silence us individually, but they will never silence Christ. They will never silence the gospel. The Bible promises it and history confirms it. Colossians 1:6 says:

The gospel has come to you just as in all the world also, it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth.

Proclaim Christ with confidence, knowing that He will use your witness to deliver others from the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of His glorious light.

Let's pray.

Father, what an awesome privilege is ours in Christ. We have our sins forgiven through His work on the cross. What a privilege is ours to know that a place in heaven is secured for us and that no one can erase our name from the Lamb's Book of Life. God, what awesome privileges you have bestowed upon us in our Savior. We thank you for that.

Father, we embrace the responsibility to take the saving gospel to people who do not yet know Christ. Help us to that end Father. We are weak, we are frail, we are trembling, our minds are thick and slow, and we are easily intimidated. Father, help us by your grace to take our eyes off of our own resources and to put them on the great sufficiency of the Scriptures, the great sufficiency of the Savior, and the great sufficiency of the gospel.

Father, once more we ask for every Christian in this room that you would give us the privilege of witnessing for Christ. Bring us unexpected opportunities even this week and give us the satisfaction of seeing you use us as instruments in the salvation of other souls. We know, Father, that will go to your glory and to their eternal good.

Father, continue to give power to your gospel that the name of Christ might be glorified and that sinners would come to a saving knowledge of Him. Help us that we would never be ashamed of the gospel. In Jesus' name, amen.

*This message was transcribed by Shari Main.*