

Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation

2 - I Am Not Ashamed: Living With True Gospel Confidence

Grace Fellowship Church / Ryan Fultz

Romans 1:14-17

Paul is not ashamed of the gospel because he understands its power. He is confident because it is the Power of God for salvation for all who believe.

Romans 1:17, “For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”

This is the Gospel: we can have life and be spared the punishment we deserve if we will put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation!

Our biggest problem is not our finances, our earthly relationships, or our grades in school; it’s that we deserve death because of our sin. But through Jesus we can receive life. That is the good news of the gospel.

Three manifestations of gospel confidence

Paul was forever changed by the power of the gospel. It radically altered his life. The gospel should be having the same effect on you. If it isn’t, we need to be asking ourselves some hard questions.

1. Gospel confidence compels you to share the gospel with all unbelievers.

Romans 1:14 “I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.”

Romans 1:16 “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.”

Paul had a new identity as a Christian that compelled him to be a gospel conduit to everyone. He understood how much unbelievers need the gospel and was confident in the power of God to save people.

As believers, we often underestimate the power of the gospel. We assess people based on their morality or intelligence, and then decide if the gospel will “work” for them.

According to Paul, we can’t look to someone’s morality or intelligence as a litmus test for gospel compatibility. The litmus test is a simple question: is God’s power, through the gospel, enough to save someone?

In light of these verses in Romans we can confidently say, “Yes!” The gospel is necessary and powerful enough to save everyone.

2. Gospel confidence forever ties you to the gospel as a believer.

Romans 1:15, “So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.”

Believers never graduate from the gospel. There is never a point in our life where we are past the need for steady doses of the gospel.

“This dichotomy surfaces a false view of the gospel, namely that the gospel has the power to save them but not to sanctify. It assumes that the gospel functions like a space shuttle's external fuel tank, falling away after the shuttle has launched us into God's orbit. The gospel, however, is more like an internal engine, always propelling us into God's presence.” (*Gospel-Centered Discipleship* by Jonathan Dodson, pg. 28)

Do you recognize your need for the gospel every day? Is it your internal engine that daily pushes you towards worship and gratitude? Or is it simply the external fuel tank; it served its purpose, but now you are on to bigger and better things.

3. Gospel confidence fuels your daily faithfulness.

Romans 1:16-17

You will never be ready to die for the gospel until you are faithfully living for it.

What does this look like practically?

Husbands: love your wives sacrificially.

Wives: honor and respect your husband even when he doesn't deserve it.

Young Men and Women: be an excellent employee that creates opportunities to share the Gospel

Students: work hard at school - as unto the Lord. Submit to the authorities God has over you even when they don't deserve it.

Questions to Consider:

- Are you confident in the gospel?
- Have you accepted this free gift through repentance and faith?
- Do you talk about it, think about it, and live for it?