



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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The Heart of the Gospel!

Focus Verses: Romans 1:16-17 - ¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Lesson Text: Romans 1:16-17

Truth About God: God calls us to respond to the gospel and live by faith.

Truth For My Life: I will respond to the gospel and live by faith.

When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he began by emphatically stating he was not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This was more than a personal statement of faith in the message of salvation; it was a declaration he would not conform his message to the prevalent secular views of Roman society. Rome's well-manicured exterior of power, pride, and political intrigue barely concealed the fact that it was a city consumed by idolatry, corruption, and moral decay. **Rome was not too different from the present world, and the church in Rome felt many of the same societal pressures as the present-day church.**

Paul knew the gospel of Jesus Christ might offend the Jews because the Messiah died on a Roman cross. Further, the gospel may look like foolishness to the Greeks since they valued power over sacrifice. However, Paul was not ashamed of the gospel because the gospel is the only power of God unto salvation: to the Jew and to the Greek. The good news—which is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—was how God saved humanity from sin (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Paul understood that human wisdom and philosophy are incapable of improving the good news that Jesus died for the sins of the world (1 John 2:1-2). When the gospel is preached, men and women who have been held captive by chains of sin that were years in the making can be instantly liberated by the power of God. The blood of Jesus Christ is sufficient to cover sin in every sense: past, present, and future.

The great news about faith is everyone has it. Regardless of ethnicity anyone who heard the gospel and responded in faith was saved from his or her sins. Anyone can respond to God's power as expressed in the gospel. However, people cannot respond if they never hear the good news of the gospel (Romans 10:14). **The world needs the church to preach the gospel to them.** Jesus took on Himself our sin and the penalty for our sin. Now the righteousness of God is progressively revealed through the gospel in the lives of believers who continually walk by faith. Faith sustains believers as we travel through the deep valleys of life, over the high mountaintop experiences, across the barren wilderness, and even beside still waters. These places are merely steps in the journey from faith to faith, not the final destination.

We must "walk by faith, not by sight" regardless of what we may encounter in this life. Faith alone will not save us. Regardless of our situation, believers cling to infallible faith in Jesus Christ because Jesus has the power to sustain us through every one of life's triumphs and trials. Our new birth is the product of faith from beginning to end. Our salvation results in the works of faith in our lives. These works are the very real fruit of the powerful Spirit of God that fills the believer's life. Through it all, **faith is the precedent and obedience is the result.**

Galatians 3:11-12 declares: "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith." The Law was good because it was from God. The Law shone a light on the offensiveness of our sin to God. Ultimately the Law brought us to the foot of Calvary's cross so we could see the power of the gospel. Now sinners are counted as righteous because Jesus paid the penalty for our sin. **Our response to the gospel is our faith and obedience that result in salvation and produce a life that glorifies God.**

Let us live in a way that points people to Jesus who justified us and wants to justify them. May we have the same testimony as those of whom Habakkuk prophesied: the just shall live by faith. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believeth. **The gospel works for everyone everywhere.** Let us not be ashamed of the gospel; let us share the gospel.