

What Value Can You Have?

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. **17** For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” Romans 1: 16-17

As we mentioned on Sunday the Gospel represents that initial coming to faith in Jesus. It is the recognition that you are a sinner and that Jesus paid the cost for that sin, then the conviction of the Holy Spirit leads us to receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. But we also mentioned that the gospel is the commitment to daily live out our faith. So, when we read the words in Romans 1:17 “The righteous shall live by faith”, we know that once the gospel enters our lives it leads us to live that message in everything we do.

The bible also mentions to us in John 16:33 “in this world you will have trouble”. We can all testify to the truth of this phrase; it is one of the things I love about the Word of God, it does not seek to give us a false reality of what we will face in this world. We understand that troubles come and hardships are present, though we don’t all experience the same difficulties in life, we can all agree that when troubles come, they have a negative effect on us. Sometimes they even challenge the faith we are supposed to live out every day.

That’s where the words the Apostle Paul mentions comes to life in Romans 1:12 “that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.” In those difficult moments most of us have the understanding that the presence of God is ever faithful and He walks with us through those tough times. We can also testify that God has used people to encourage us in words and deeds that allow us to stand straight and firm in our convictions as we live out our faith. How many times has a timely phone call, text, video chat or conversation lifted your spirits? How many times did you get an unexpected email, letter, card, watched a video or heard a sermon or lesson taught by someone and immediately your spirits were lifted? Or what about those special people that God put in your life that spent hours, days, weeks, years or decades who walked side by side with you to encourage you? Or the special moments that God used YOU to do these things? We can be vessels of encouragement to help the “righteous live by faith.”

Challenge:

1. Go and contact someone, especially someone you have not seen in a while, please go do it, I guarantee someone will be encouraged.
2. If you are discouraged, don’t go through it alone, contact someone you trust and I am sure they would be willing to walk with you in these tough times.

Remember John 16:33 finishes with these words “Take heart I have overcome the world.” God loves you; people love you and you are never alone!