

## Are We Ashamed of the Gospel? By Trey Sullins

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” These were the powerful words of Romans 1:16. Paul was a man who certainly lived in such a way to prove that his was the truth! We have probably all had those moments before, usually when we are younger, where we feel embarrassed or hesitant to let someone know that we are Christians. Usually these attitudes are due to our lack of confidence in knowing how the other person will react. However, Christians can use the great example of Paul to better understand how to never be ashamed of the gospel of Christ. How did Paul stay unashamed?

Paul felt a great sense of obligation to the godly life. He felt this in two main ways. First, he knew he was a debtor to the world. Romans 1:14 says, “I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.” Paul was in debt because he had the gospel of Jesus Christ and knew that he had to take this out to the world. This feeling of indebtedness removes any chance of being ashamed. Can you imagine if you discovered the cure for cancer? You would not feel embarrassed about it, but rather you would be trying to tell the entire world! This is the same feeling Christians should have because we have something far greater than a cure for cancer, a cure for eternal punishment. That cure was provided through the word of God and we have to tell the world. This brings us to the second way in which Paul was a debtor. He was a debtor to God to fulfill the duty which was placed in him. In 1 Timothy 1:11 he wrote that the gospel was “committed to his trust.” If we as Christians always have this mindset of obligation, then we will never be ashamed of the gospel.

Paul dedicated his work to God. When you study the Bible, you notice that Paul stands out as one that was always working for God. In Romans 1:15 he wrote that he was ready to preach to them in Rome. This readiness is something we see all throughout his life. During his missionary journeys in the book of Acts, he was constantly moving about teaching, preaching, and working for God. Consider if you were trying to get a promotion at work. What would your work effort look like? You would certainly be trying hard to impress and doing everything you could to make sure that you were going above and beyond the requirements for your job. This is the same kind of work that Paul was putting into his Christian walk. Paul however was not seeking a promotion, but rather an eternity in heaven! If we dedicate ourselves to working for God always, then there will not be any reason or time left to be ashamed of the gospel.

Paul was confident in his work for God. First Corinthians 11:1 says, “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ. Again, in 2 Timothy 4:8 Paul wrote, “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day.” Do you notice how confident he was in his reward and Christian walk? This confidence did not come because he believed more than others, but because he knew that he was doing all that he could for God; therefore, he knew that God would bless him. When we are ever ashamed or embarrassed about something, it is at least in part because we are not confident enough about whatever it may be. This should never be the case with our attitudes towards the gospel of Jesus Christ. If we study so that we know the scriptures and labor daily for God, then our confidence will defeat any shame.

God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing and every physical blessing (Ephesians 1:3). He has given us the opportunity to be His people and serve Him as dear children. As if it could not get any better, He offers us a reward in heaven someday. Let us look to the example of Paul and so many others who are obligated, dedicated, and confident in their walks for God. When that final day comes, we must never let shame be the hinderance to our heavenly reward.