

“A Christian Unashamed”
Romans 1:14-17

One of the great and demanding needs of our day is for those of us who profess to believe the Gospel to manifest by words and deeds that our belief is genuine and that we are not ashamed to practice in our daily living what we believe. We need to dare to live daily as Christians unashamed.

The great Apostle Paul was such a person. After his conversion experience on the Damascus road, Paul lived a noble example of the Christian life. It was not at all easy, but when he became a Christian Paul put on the whole armor of God and under great stress and strain and pressure Paul remained loyal to Jesus Christ.

Romans chapter 1, verses 14-17 point out one of the great and noble dreams which Paul had as a Christian. He longed to visit Rome, the capital city of the empire. Paul did not want to visit Rome just to see the sites. He had a compelling motive and a burning desire to preach the Gospel of Christ there. In challenging words he wrote to the Christians and others in Rome declaring: “I am ready to preach the Gospel to you that are in Rome also. For 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.” Why did Paul stand tall as a Christian unashamed? Why was Paul not ashamed of the Gospel of his Lord?

1. Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel because of his great love for the One who brought that Gospel to man. Paul was probably one of the most learned men of his day. He was a Roman citizen, a distinguished scholar, a brilliant Hebrew theologian. He had studied at the feet of one of the great teachers of the day. He met and appreciated some of the greatest personalities of that era of history. But to Paul Jesus Christ was the greatest. He was Savior and Lord. Paul loved this Christ who died for him and wanted others to know of His love. This is why he launched missionary journeys which were blessed by and used of God to turn the world upside down for Christ. Because of his great love for Christ who first loved him, Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.
2. Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel because he knew that the Gospel was the Good News of God. Being the learned man that he was Paul was acquainted with the various philosophies of life which were set forth by the learned men of the day. No doubt some of these philosophies had strong points, but none of them meant anything when compared with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of Jesus Christ Paul had found Good News which truly satisfies and brings one to the point where he focuses his attention on the abiding values of life – the values that endure when all other values fail.

In an age such as ours when the news media is prone to place such strong emphasis on bad news, there is a demanding need for Good News to be shared with others.

Those of us who know Christ and are committed to Him have in our hearts the best news in all the world. It is the Good News of God's salvation through Jesus Christ, and we are failing God and failing in the wise exercise of our stewardship when we do not share this Good News with others.

The Apostle Paul was not ashamed of the Good News. Willingly and enthusiastically he shared the Gospel with others. If we are true to our life commitment to Christ, we must follow Paul's great example.

3. Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel because he knew the power of the Gospel. Paul writes in Romans 1:14: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Gospel power is the greatest power in all of God's creation. Real Gospel power reaches and transforms the heart – the inner being of man.

In a very personal way Paul experienced the power of the Gospel on that Damascus road when he met the resurrected Christ face to face. That divine power transformed his life and turned him from a persecutor of Christians to a proclaimer of the Gospel message.

The New Testament writings make it clear. Paul manifested by his words and his deeds that he was indeed a Christian unashamed. Do we deserve that title?

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