

Not ashamed.

These two verses have an importance out of all proportion to their length.¹

Romans 1:16-17

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.”

Why not be ashamed of the Gospel?

- Because the Gospel is completely reliable – Romans 1:16a
For I am not ashamed of the gospel,
 - Why the need for a disclaimer?
 - Paul had experienced the Gospel. He discovered that in comparison to the finest forms of religion and education the Gospel is unmatched. Therefore, he was not ashamed of the Gospel.
 - We never graduate from the Gospel. Graduation implies you’ve mastered certain things so that you can move on to bigger and more complex ideas.
 - *Gospel* means ‘good news’
- Because the Gospel is unmatched in power – Romans 1:16b
for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

“‘Power of God’ does not mean that power by which he is powerful in himself but that power by which he makes powerful and strong.” – Martin Luther²

Romans 3:9

What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,

- Because the Gospel shows us how to live – 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.”*
 - ‘is revealed’ *apokalupto* – “to cause something to be fully known, reveal, disclose, bring to light, make fully known.”³

Habakkuk 2:4b

but the righteous shall live by his faith.

Q: What does it look like to live by faith?

A: To walk in what you know to be true despite how you may feel.

“Why the gospel brings salvation is explained in v. 17a: it manifests God’s righteousness, a righteousness based on faith. Verse 17b, finally, provides scriptural confirmation for this connection between righteousness and faith.”⁴

¹ Leon Morris, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 66.

² Luke 1:35; 24:49; Acts 1:8; 4:23. Leon Morris, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988).

³ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 112.

⁴ Douglas J. Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1996), 63–64.