

**WELCOME**



THE WORLD  
NEEDS JESUS'  
GOSPEL

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:14-17 (p939)

**UNASHAMED**

Translation: **ESV**  
Unless Otherwise Noted

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## What Is The Gospel?



### God's Plan To Redeem Man

**Acts 2:22-24** (p910)

**Hear:** **Acts 2:22** (p910) - “Men of Israel, **hear these words ...**”

- What was heard was to be *understood*; **Verse 36** - “Let all the house of Israel **know for certain ...**” (generating faith)

**Believe:** Upon understanding, they were convicted of their sin (**v37**).

**Repent:** Those who believed were commanded to repent (**v38**).

**Confess:** The command/action to confess is not present in Acts 2, but the *elements* of the confession are (**v36**).

**Be Baptized:** **Acts 2:38** - be baptized for the forgiveness of sins.

**Upon Our Obedience ... We Enter The Christian Race**

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## Challenges to the Gospel

As Christians, we need to accept the fact that the world will have an overall objection to the Gospel. Is true today; was true in the first century.

- May face personal mockery: **Acts 17:18** (p926) – “**What does this babbler wish to say?**”
- May face mockery of your faith: **Acts 17:32** (p927) – Re: the teaching of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked
- May face significant adversity: **Acts 19:23-34** (p928-9) – Gospel was interpreted as a threat; generated a large city-level riot
- May face physical assault: **Acts 23:1-2** (p932) – Paul said he lived the Gospel in good conscience; high priest ordered he be struck on the mouth/physical assault due to his confession
- **1 Cor 1:18** (p952) – the message of the cross is considered to be foolish by a perishing world that is entering the wide gate that leads to destruction (**Matt 7:13** p812).

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### *Example with Door-Knocking ...*

If you have ever tried this to share the Gospel, you will likely have experienced:

**Doors Slammed In Your Face**

**Angry or Unkind Words**

**Insults to Your Faith**



We therefore face a strong temptation (planted by **Satan**) that efforts to share the gospel are useless ... so why should we even bother.

### **God Has a Different Message Thru Paul's Pen**

Paul says in **Rom 1:16** - "I am not ashamed of the gospel"

**Luke 9:26** (p867) "For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of his Father and of the holy angels."

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### **Let's See This From GOD's View**

Christians are His community of people; his household. And yet it pleases God to have His community live in a world where Satan is prince. - **at first, doesn't make sense**

But you see, God has targeted his people of light at the world of darkness. God has purpose in targeting us there.

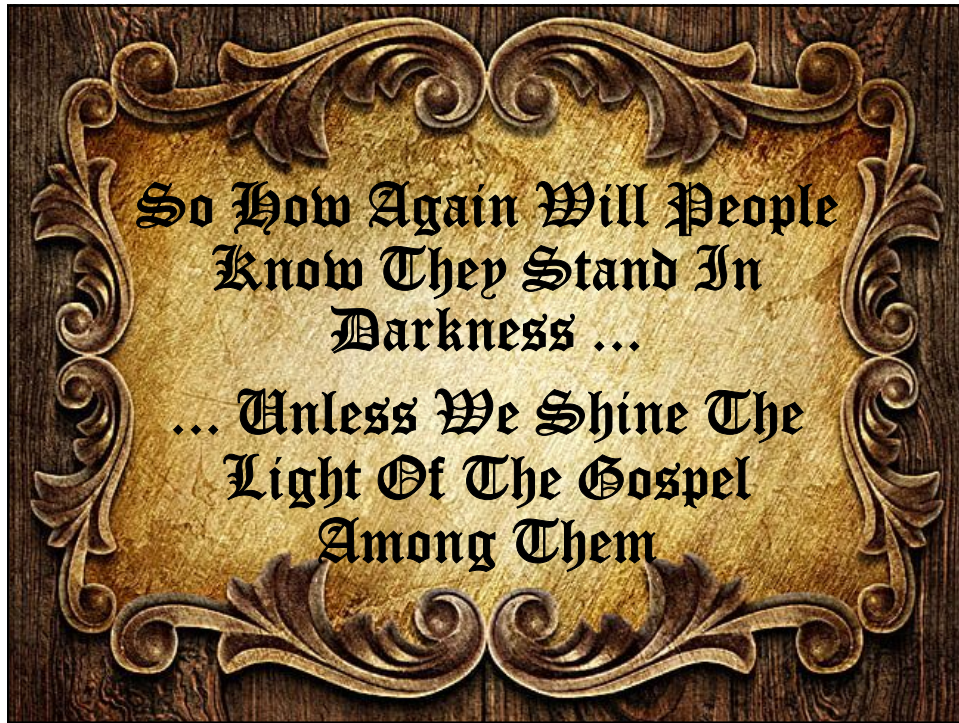
**Consider:** if darkness is everywhere, then people in that darkness won't know they need light (dark all they know).

God Has  
Sent Us  
Purposely  
To Be His  
Light



- We are to be blameless in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom we shine as lights in the world (**Philippians 2:15** p981)

- We are to shine/proclaim the light of the gospel (**2 Cor 4:1-6** p965)



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## **Significant Obstacle ... FEAR**

**Being Ashamed:** feelings of shame, dishonor, disgrace ... this influences us to be timid; it brings us to cower (to cringe in fear).

### **Combating Fear**

***1 ... Knowing We Possess The POWER Of The Gospel***

Paul presents the answer to his unashamedness in the latter half of Romans 1:16.

**Rom 1:16** (p939) **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, FOR ...**

**Why Paul? He will now give his reason for the boldness he has in the Gospel.**

**Rom 1:16** (p939) **“... for it is the POWER of GOD for salvation to everyone who believes ...”**

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- Paul experienced this power personally
- He was **transformed** from one of the church's greatest enemies, to one of the church's greatest champions
- He went from darkness to light, not realizing prior he had been in darkness

***This Is Why Paul Felt OBLIGATED To Preach The Gospel***

**Romans 1:14** (p939)

***This Is Why Paul Was EAGER To Preach The Gospel***

**Romans 1:15** (p939)

**Because It TRANSFORMED Him**



- If a Christian, what has it done for you?
- What were you before you encountered Christ, and what are you now?
- Some of the best preachers: the ones who were *forgiven* most/*transformed* the most

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**... Because They  
Know What It  
Really Means To  
Be LOST**

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### Combating Fear (Cont'd)

**2 ... The Gospel Is A Message Of LOVE ... STIR UP Love!**

**Rom 1:16** (p939) **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes ...”**

Salvation itself is an act of love, and we should be motivated by love in our sharing of it ... helps with fear.

**1 John 4:18-19** (p1023) **“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us.”** - KJV: “... fear hath torment”

**Idea:** some Christians live in a state of torment because they have a disconnect with God (not practicing the first and greatest commandment) ... and this has a domino effect on everything else that God requires.

***Love Is Our Central Response To God***

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Is not your desire to say: “I’m not ashamed of the Gospel?” **Learn to LOVE.**

- Love God and what he did for you: sent Christ
- Love your current saved state
- Love the souls that are not in a current saved state

***But If We Took The “Dos” and “Don’ts” Approach ...***

... could talk about Paul’s obligation to preach (**Rom 1:14**) and then look at **Matt 28:18-20** (p835) and **Mark 16:15-16** (p854). But we need to get to the root of the problem: fear.



If fear is the problem, then we need something to drive that away ... LOVE (**1 John 4:18** p1023).

***So This Lesson Is Just As Much About Love As It Is About Being Unashamed***

Remember why we come to the assembly: to stir up one another to **love** and **good works** (**Heb 10:24** p1007).

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**And Love Helps  
Us DO Those  
Good Works**

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### **Combating Fear (Cont'd)**

**3 ... Take CHARGE! – “I will not fear”**

We might just need to take a good, long, hard look at ourselves, and with determined spirit, say ...

**“I Am Not Ashamed Of The Gospel!”**

**“I Love My Lord!” “I Love The Lost!”**

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27** (p957)

- In our spiritual race, we discipline ourselves. Like an athlete, Paul says we exercise self-control
- Can apply this with our living and sharing the Gospel

**Psalm 121:1-2** (p516) **“... From where does my help come?  
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.”**

**Remember: We Don't Have To Do This Alone**

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## **Words To Timothy In Closing**

As Paul neared his end in this life, he bestowed upon Timothy words of encouragement and admonition so that he would be unashamed and fired up for the ministry.

Consider Paul speaking to US as we read ...

**2 Timothy 1:8-14** (p995)

**2 Timothy 2:3, 15** (p995)

For a final thought from Paul, we will back up toward the beginning.

**2 Timothy 1:7** (p995) "... God gave us a spirit not of fear but of **POWER** and **LOVE** and **SELF-CONTROL**.

**Paul Wrote That For Timothy's Benefit  
... But For OURS As Well**

# **RESPOND TODAY!**

**The Gospel of Christ**  
I Corinthians 15:1-4

**Hear Believe Repent Confess Baptism Faithfulness**  
Rom 10:17    Jn 8:24    Acts 17:30    Rom 10:9,10    Acts 2:38    Rev 2:10