

THEME: Witnessing - Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (Bold Proclamation)
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.

Romans 1:16

There is no salvation apart from knowledge

God is continually bringing me back to the simplicity of Romans 1:16, *"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."* That which we are not ashamed of is *"the gospel"*. The gospel cannot be separated from knowledge. In the New Covenant church age, salvation cannot be separated from specific truths, specific knowledge gained only from the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God. To say we are not ashamed of the gospel is to say we are not ashamed of presenting the plan of salvation clearly from the Word of God. No one can be saved as by a cataclysmic event. No one can be saved by an angelic appearance or a so called apparition of Jesus. No one can be saved by an ecstatic or spiritist emotional experience. Man's salvation is inseparable from the facts of the gospel as revealed in God's holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word. True, once the gospel has been clearly presented God often uses cataclysmic events to bring men to themselves as in the case of the prodigal son but these events can only save men when they turn them to the saving knowledge of Christ as previously presented or taught. An emphasis on the spectacular individual event makes it all too easy for the world (and even the church) to marginalize the universal truths of the gospel, which is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. The gospel is not "my story", the gospel is not "your story", *"for what we preach is not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus sake."* (II Corinthians 4:1) Our duty as witnesses is the content of the gospel not a one act biographical monologue.

Romans 1:16 deals not only with content but also with proclamation from Word of God

To say we are not ashamed of the content of the gospel is not enough, we must also be able to say boldly that we are not ashamed to proclaim the content of the gospel. By proclamation we mean the verbal communication of the gospel, either through teaching or preaching, as centered upon the Word of God. The facts, the truths of the gospel can only be found in the Word of God and salvation is impossible apart from these truths, these facts as revealed in the Word of God. Thus witnessing becomes a matter of verbal presentation of the truths of the Gospel as revealed in the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God. Some very bold extroverts who regularly engage others in Christian religious and philosophical discussions are never-the-less ashamed of the gospel actual content of the gospel leading to a decision and rarely bring it up.

Some are ashamed of the audacity of the bold proclamation of the gospel

By audacity I mean the Biblical claims. For instance Romans 1:16 makes the claim that the gospel itself is the power of God for salvation. This is just too audacious for some - no anthropology, no culture immersion, no long term intimate relationship, no good works, impossible!! They are not only ashamed of the gospel but they are embarrassed by and ashamed of people who on a first encounter clearly and succinctly present the gospel from the holy Scriptures. The fact that the Word of God knows of not a single illustration of the inception of a relationship where the gospel with a call to a decision was not made in the same day and in most cases within the first hour or so. Unfortunately, to many, the immediate proclamation of the gospel from the Word of God as taught in the Epistles and exemplified in both the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles is viewed as at best a throw back to another age.

A Return To An Unashamed Gospel Presentation Springing From The Word of God

It is hoped that the meditations in this series will lead to a return in your life to an unashamed gospel presentation, springing from the Word of God. It is hoped that there will emerge a growing conviction that you should not preach yourself but Jesus Christ as Lord as revealed in the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God. That you should do so boldly and aggressively. That you will come to grips with an open association with the gospel of Christ and with the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God. If at the end of this series of daily quiet times alone with God you find yourself without shame as it pertains to the gospel and exuding complete confidence in the gospel's power as it pertains to the salvation of men. If at the end of this series of daily quiet times alone with God you find yourself openly carrying your Bible, openly witnessing of Christ from the Bible and openly sharing in the fruit and the ridicule associated with such a lifestyle then the prayers of the author will have been answered.

Rev. John S. Mahon

Grace Community Int. 07/15/09 - while ministering the gospel in Nairobi, Kenya

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Witnessing - Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (Bold Proclamation)****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Romans 1:16****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:19 & 20; John 17:15 – 18; 20:21****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Witnessing - Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (Bold Proclamation)

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 4:31 – 33

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 5:42

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 9:1 – 29 (:20, 27, 28)

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Witnessing - Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (Bold Proclamation)

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 10:34 - 42

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 13:1 – 49 (:5, 32, 46, 49)

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 14:1 – 22 (:3, 7, 15)

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Witnessing - Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (Bold Proclamation)

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 18:24 – 28 (:26 & 28)

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 19:1 – 10 (:8)

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 20:18 - 21

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Witnessing - Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (Bold Proclamation)

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 28:1

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Romans 1:14-16

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Romans 10:1 - 18

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Witnessing - Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (Bold Proclamation)

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Corinthians 9:16 – 23 (:18, 23)

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Corinthians 2:14 - 17

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Corinthians 4:5 & 6

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Witnessing - Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (Bold Proclamation)

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Corinthians 5:20

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 6:17 – 20 (:19, 20)

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Philippians 1:12-20 (:14, 20)

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Witnessing - Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (Bold Proclamation)

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Colossians 1:25 - 29

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Colossians 4:1 – 4

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Colossians 4:5 & 6; II Timothy 2:23 - 26

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Witnessing - Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (Bold Proclamation)****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Thessalonians 2:1 - 6****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Timothy 1:7 – 12****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Timothy 4:1 - 5****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Witnessing - Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (Bold Proclamation)****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Jeremiah 1:1 – 9; 5:14****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Jeremiah 20:9****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ezekiel 2:7 – 3:10****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Witnessing - Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (Bold Proclamation)****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ezekiel 3:11 - 27****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Peter 2:9****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Romans 1:16****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

THEME: Witnessing - Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (Content)

*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.*

Romans 1:16

There is no salvation apart from knowledge

God is continually brining me back to the simplicity of Romans 1:16, *“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.”* That which we are not ashamed of is *“the gospel”*. The gospel cannot be separated from knowledge. In the New Covenant church age, salvation cannot be separated from specific truths, specific knowledge gained only from the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God. To say we are not ashamed of the gospel is to say we are not ashamed of presenting the plan of salvation clearly from the Word of God. No one can be saved as by a cataclysmic event. No one can be saved by an angelic appearance or a so called apparition of Jesus. No one can be saved by an ecstatic or spiritist emotional experience. Man’s salvation is inseparable from the facts of the gospel as revealed in God’s holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word. True, once the gospel has been clearly presented God often uses cataclysmic events to bring men to themselves as in the case of the prodigal son but these events can only save men when they turn them to the saving knowledge of Christ as previously presented or taught. An emphasis on the spectacular individual event makes it all too easy for the world (and even the church) to marginalize the universal truths of the gospel, which is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. The gospel is not “my story”, the gospel is not “your story”, *“for what we preach is not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants fro Jesus sake.”* (II Corinthians 4:1) Our duty as witnesses is the content of the gospel not a one act biographical monologue.

Romans 1:16 deals not only with presentation but also with content

When I first memorized Romans 1:16 I leapt to the conclusion that the shame of the gospel came solely from the shyness or embarrassment of speaking up. I have learned over the years that this is not necessarily true. Some very bold extroverts who regularly engage others in Christian political, religious, philosophical or social discussions are never-the-less ashamed of the bold presentation of the gospel and rarely bring it up. One reason is that they are ashamed of the gospel in terms of its content. To these individuals the Scriptures as a whole and the gospel in specific is chocked full of embarrassing terms and teachings. Examples include embarrassing phrases such as *“born again”* as in *“Brother, have you been born again”*. Others are embarrassed by doctrines such as eternal fires of Hell, the existence of a literal devil, the doctrine of election/predestination or the emphasis of blood letting in our salvation. Others are embarrassed by the exclusiveness of Christ. *“Do you mean to say that my dear departed Auntie, who, though a Mormon, lived a better more chaste life than most of the hypocrites in your church is burning in Hell?”* The answer being *“Yes”*. For some, if it is not embarrassing that God would do this, then it is indeed embarrassing that He would be so brazen and callous in His openness about it. Yes, for them God the Holy Spirit and God the Father just did not think far enough ahead when they composed the holy Scriptures. For these individuals the best thing is to instead tell their “story” – no quoting of Scripture, no embarrassing Biblical phrases, no awkward doctrines, these things can all be fixed by man.

It is the hope of the author, that in completing this series of daily quiet times alone with God you will be reconciled with the purity of not only the gospel but the total word of God. That there would be no shame in the Word, nor in the gospel, nor in Christ our Lord. That rather than minimizing the Word and maximizing your story, you would instead not preach yourself but Jesus Christ as Lord, as revealed to us in the holy, eternal, inerrant written Word of God.

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Witnessing - Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (Content)****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Corinthians 1:17 - 25****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Corinthians 2:1 - 3****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Corinthians 2:4 & 5****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

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QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Witnessing - Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (Content)****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Thessalonians 2:1 – 6****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Revelation 22:16 – 19****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Corinthians 11:1 – 4; Galatians 1:6 - 10****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

THEME: Witnessing: Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (It's Seeming Lack Of Power)

There is no salvation apart from knowledge

God is continually brining me back to the simplicity of Romans 1:16, *"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."* That which we are not ashamed of is *"the gospel"*. The gospel cannot be separated from knowledge. In the New Covenant church age, salvation cannot be separated from specific truths, specific knowledge gained only from the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God. To say we are not ashamed of the gospel is to say we are not ashamed of presenting the plan of salvation clearly from the Word of God. No one can be saved by a cataclysmic event. No one can be saved by an angelic appearance or a so called apparition of Jesus. No one can be saved by an ecstatic or spiritist emotional experience. Man's salvation is inseparable from the facts of the gospel as revealed in God's holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word. True, once the gospel has been clearly presented God often uses cataclysmic events to bring men to themselves as in the case of the prodigal son but these events can only save men when they turn them to the saving knowledge of Christ as previously presented or taught. An emphasis on the spectacular individual event makes it all too easy for the world (and even the church) to marginalize the universal truths of the gospel, which is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. The gospel is not "my story", the gospel is not "your story", *"for what we preach is not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants fro Jesus sake."* (II Corinthians 4:1) Our duty as witnesses is the content of the gospel not a one act biographical monologue.

Romans 1:16 deals not only with presentation but also with content

When I first memorized Romans 1:16 I leapt to the conclusion that the shame of the gospel came solely from the shyness or embarrassment of speaking up. I have learned over the years that this is not necessarily true. Some very bold extroverts who regularly engage others in Christian religious and philosophical discussions are never-the-less ashamed of the gospel and rarely bring it up. They do this for a number of reasons...

Some are ashamed of the practical nature of the gospel (as opposed to mystical)

It is hard to fill a church up with a mundane testimony of a parent leading their child to Christ. It is out of the question to call a special Sunday night service just to hear about a student who lead a classmate to Christ. No one would ever consider canceling Sunday School and having the combined classes meet in the Fellowship Hall to hear from a housewife that had lead a neighbor to Christ. Cancel the Sunday service to hear from a businessman who lead the janitor of his building to Christ - never. Yes the practical nature of the gospel is a bit embarrassing to most. But wait, there is hope. In each of the above events instead have an angel appear, or better yet have an after death experience where they went to heaven or hell, no, wait even better, have Jesus appear!!! Now we are talking, now we can not only cancel services, lets get this thing in print, lets take this show on the road - Christian radio, Christian talk shows, Christian magazines and more. Yes some are ashamed of the practical nature of the gospel. They are ashamed that the simple Christian, in a simple and mundane way, by opening the Bible and sharing a few simple verses, can change the eternal destiny of a man's life. The simplicity of it all smacks of a parochial and unsophisticated approach. In an age of the spectacular it is a little embarrassing to say, "Well, I opened my Bible and took him through the plan of salvation and he received Christ."

Others are ashamed of the inconsistency of success (especially in the face of the success cults and secularism)

Many would be willing to share Christ if it would only work. To go door to door witnessing, to share consistently with your neighbors and co-workers with little or no results is simply embarrassing. We feel bad for God, we feel bad for the Jesus and yes, for the Holy Spirit - the simple gospel message just does not seem to get the job done. It is embarrassing to see the rise of cults, of Islam, of Mormonism of eastern religions while our own evangelistic results are paltry at best. It is embarrassing to us that there are so few results so we are ashamed to share a message which doesn't seem to match the power of the spiritual and secular forces at work.

It is the author's prayer, that by taking the time to do this series of daily quiet times alone with God, the disciple will return to a confidence in the gospel, in the Word of God and in the sovereign Lord who calls men unto Himself. That his witness will be based on a love for God, a desire to obey God and bring glory to His name. God is on the throne, Jesus is calling His elect into the church, the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of unbelievers and the gospel is the power of God for salvation.

Rev. John S. Mahon
Grace Community Int.
07/15/09 Nairobi, Kenya

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Witnessing: Not Ashamed of the Gospel (It's Seeming Lack Of Power) ****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 12:38 – 43 (:39)****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Mark 8: 11 & 12****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 11:16 & 17 & 29****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Witnessing: Not Ashamed of the Gospel (It's Seeming Lack Of Power)****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 11:29 – 33; Luke 23:8****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 11:11; John 10:41****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 16:1 – 4****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Witnessing: Not Ashamed of the Gospel (It's Seeming Lack Of Power)****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 10:41; John 20:31****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 15:18 – 20; John 6:66****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Corinthians 4:5 - 12****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Witnessing: Not Ashamed of the Gospel (It's Seeming Lack Of Power)****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Peter 1:23 – 25****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Timothy 3:12; 4:1 - 5****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ecclesiastes 5:3 & 7; Jeremiah 23:27, 32; 29:8 & 9****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Witnessing: Not Ashamed of the Gospel (It's Seeming Lack Of Power)****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 7:21 – 23****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Corinthians 1:18 – 24 (:22 & 23)****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Corinthians 1:25 – 30 (:25 & 28)****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

THEME: Witnessing - Not Ashamed Of The Gospel (Its Polarizing Affect)

There is no salvation apart from knowledge

God is continually brining me back to the simplicity of Romans 1:16, *"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."* That which we are not ashamed of is *"the gospel"*. The gospel cannot be separated from knowledge. In the New Covenant church age, salvation cannot be separated from specific truths, specific knowledge gained only from the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God. To say we are not ashamed of the gospel is to say we are not ashamed of presenting the plan of salvation clearly from the Word of God. No one can be saved as by a cataclysmic event. No one can be saved by an angelic appearance or a so called apparition of Jesus. No one can be saved by an ecstatic or spiritist emotional experience. Man's salvation is inseparable from the facts of the gospel as revealed in God's holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word. True, once the gospel has been clearly presented God often uses cataclysmic events to bring men to themselves as in the case of the prodigal son but these events can only save men when they turn them to the saving knowledge of Christ as previously presented or taught. An emphasis on the spectacular individual event makes it all too easy for the world (and even the church) to marginalize the universal truths of the gospel, which is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. The gospel is not "my story", the gospel is not "your story", *"for what we preach is not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants fro Jesus sake."* (II Corinthians 4:1) Our duty as witnesses is the content of the gospel not a one act biographical monologue.

Romans 1:16 deals not only with presentation but also with content

When I first memorized Romans 1:16 I leapt to the conclusion that the shame of the gospel came solely from the shyness or embarrassment of speaking up. I have learned over the years that this is not necessarily true. Some very bold extroverts who regularly engage others in Christian religious and philosophical discussions are never-the-less ashamed of the gospel and rarely bring it up. They do this for a number of reasons...

Some are ashamed because of the polarizing effects of the gospel

Early in the game they discovered that sharing Christ from the Word of God simply is not practical in that it is blatantly offensive to many people. How do you go about telling people devoted to thier religion that they are not only wrong but that they are going to Hell. Not only this but it is caustic. Sharing verses from the Bible and doing it the "old fashioned gospel way" truly upsets people. They get angry, they get offended, using the Bible and all that fire and brimstone stuff is counter productive. Last but not least many are offended at having the Bible out or quoting the Bible out loud. It is more than simply embarrassing in a rural, parochial sort of way, it is down right offensive to some. When it comes right down to it, it is just an embarrassment to all involved.

The problem with having a problem with the polarizing affects of the gospel is that this polarization is part of the prophetic will of God. To make the gospel inoffensive is to make the gospel something other than what it is. True, we do not make the gospel offensive, but equally true we do not fix it so that it does not offend. The gospel stands on its own. To some it will be the fragrance of life, to others the stench of death but it does not need to be fixed, rather it needs to be boldly presented.

It is the authors prayer that in doing these daily quiet times alone with God that the disciple will no longer be ashamed of the polarizing affects of the gospel. That he will come to see this as part of the prophetic will of God. That he will embrace the truth of Jesus teaching that *"if they persecute Me they will persecute you"*. Jesus never used a wrong illustration. Jesus never spoke out of turn. Jesus never came on too hard nor too soft. Jesus was never off queue nor out of sync. Jesus was never out of touch with His listeners. In fact of all the witnesses ever to live Jesus was the only perfect one, the only one to do it right every time and all the time. Yet Jesus was soundly rejected, persecuted and killed. We are not going to be able to do a better job at this witness thing than Jesus. The danger is, that if we do not accept the polarizing aspect of the gospel as part of its divine nature we will begin to soften, change and even extract those aspects which we deem to be part of the problem.

Rev. John S. Mahon
Grace Community Int.
07.15.09 - Nairobi, Kenya

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Witnessing – Not Ashamed of the Gospel (It's Polarizing Affect)****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 10:16-23****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 10:24 – 33****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 10: 34 – 39****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Witnessing – Not Ashamed of the Gospel (It's Polarizing Affect)

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 24:9 – 12; Mark 13:9 – 13; Luke 21:12 - 17

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 6:22 & 23 & 26

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 5:11 – 16 (:11 & 12)

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Witnessing – Not Ashamed of the Gospel (It's Polarizing Affect)****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 6:41 - 66****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 15:18 & 19; I John 3:13****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 15:20 & 21****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Witnessing – Not Ashamed of the Gospel (It's Polarizing Affect)****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 15:22 – 27****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 16:1 – 4****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 16:5 – 11, 33****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Witnessing – Not Ashamed of the Gospel (It's Polarizing Affect)****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 14:1 – 22 (:4, 21 & 22)****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 17:22 – 34 (:32); II Timothy 3:12****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Corinthians 2:14 – 17 (:16)****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**