

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?

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 11:16 & 17 & 29

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JEREMIAH 15:16

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 11:29 – 33; Luke 23:8

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 11:11; John 10:41

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 16:1 – 4

How does this passage relate to the theme?

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 10:41; John 20:31

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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?

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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?**

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JEREMIAH 15:16

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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?

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