

"I am not ashamed"

TEXT: Romans 1:16

INTRODUCTION:

-When we think of the word "ashamed", others words and thoughts associated with it come to mind.

-For example: the words - humiliated, embarrassed,
disgrace

-Also, we have heard the idiom "unable to show one's face."

-ILLUS: Going shopping with my mother and her cousin Mary.

I was ashamed or embarrassed by them.

*There are many things about our Christian walk, that we should be ashamed of but many Christians are not.

-For example the use of the tongue.

-The Bible says about the tongue: See James 3:1-8.

-The one of the greatest sins that alot Christians get involved in is sins that involve the use of the tongue -

-gossip, slander, back biting, busy bodies, evil reports,
-lying, *whispering*

-The sins of the tongue are responsible for destroying and causing splits in Bible Believing Churches.

-Most people leave churches over something that was said, not over doctrinal issues.

-The Bible tells in Proverbs 12:22 - **"Lying lips are abomination to the LORD."**

-In Proverbs 6: where it lists the things that God hates, sins of the tongue are three out seven things listed:

-"a lying tongue", "A false witness", "he that soweth discord among brethen"

-Yet, the sad commentary on Christianity today is most Christians at one time or another are guilty of sins of the tongue.

-Even sadder is the fact, that alot of folks are not ashamed of what they are doing.

-Evidenced by the fact that even after being confronted by the Pastor that they continue in their sin.

*Unfortunately, we see all over America in so-called Bible Believing Churches, the sins of adultery, fornication, homosexuality being committed and the man at the top is allowing it to continue.

-So, obviously by it being allowed to continue shows, that the church and its people are not ashamed of this activity.

*Or how about the cases in America where Pastors are falling because of some sin of immorality, e.g. adultery and still believe that they can pastor and the folks in the church going along with it.

-Obviously, no evidence of shame or of being ashamed.

*We remember a time in America when folks were ashamed to have a child outside of marriage or living together.

** Ashamed when got drunk*

*Or people were ashamed to be on welfare.

*You were ashamed to come home with a note from your teacher for causing trouble.

*You were ashamed if got arrested or even stopped for a speeding ticket.

** Mention way people dress; make-up - would have been ashamed - no modesty -*

*The problem with a America in general is that no one is ashamed or there is no longer any shame associated with the sins that are openly being committed.

*The response you get is that "everyone is doing it"

*After all our Gov't condones and promotes things that once brought shame:

- Abortions
- Homosexuality
- Stealing - S&L

*Instead shameful activities according to our Gov't are:
-prayer, the Bible, the Ten Commandments, Pledge of Allegiance.

*This is evidenced by all of the above being tossed out of our schools - On the basis that it might offend someone.

*The problem today is that no one is ashamed for what they did but just sorry that got caught.

-Today, Christians for the most part are ashamed for the wrong things.

-Do you realize why folks are not getting saved in the numbers, they use to?

-It is because Christians in the end times are ashamed of the gospel of Christ - *the one thing they shouldn't be !!!*

-That is why often times that the plan of salvation has to be sugar coated and hidden in some nice little story, so no one will be offended. - *OR the message is just trust Christ & continue living for the devil - "easy beliefism"*

-Whatever happen to Christians who would get up and boldly exclaimed:

-The Bible says "There is none righteous, no not one"

-The Bible says "We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God"

-The Bible says "The wages of sin is death"

-The Bible says "Except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish"

-To boldly proclaim that it is people's sin that separates them from God and puts them under the wrath of God.

-That God is love but he also hates sin because He is a just, a holy, a righteous God.

-That nothing short of trusting in Jesus's shed blood and nothing else to save them, will they be saved from their sins and have a home in heaven.

-You see the things of the world have made the Christian soft.

-You see the main thrust of the ministry to most Christians today is not soul winning and discipling those who get saved and developing ones fellowship with the Lord, and teaching the Bible.

-It is activities and fellowship with one another.

-No there is nothing wrong with fellowship with one another but it should not be the main thrust of a ministry.

-We see Christians are ashamed of the gospel to the extent, that they won't even leave gospel tracts at a restaurant with their tip,

-Or leave tracts in public areas such as restrooms, telephone booths.

-They won't send tracts in with their bills.

-Never mind actually going up to someone and saying "I have something good for you to read." and handing them a gospel tract.

-Christians would sooner hold a discussion with an ^{unsaved} ~~saved~~ person on the ballgame, some show they watched on the Hellavision, or some book they read, on video watched, then share the plan of salvation.

-Christian are ashamed of the gospel because they don't want to be rejected by others.

-Or they don't want people to think they are strange or weird.

-They want to the world to love them.

-Jesus told his disciples **SEE John 15:18-19.**

see II Tim 3.12

-We see Christians talk a good game when it comes to witnessing, and soul winning. But when hold tract passing just minority of folks show up.

-Why is that? Because most Christian are ashamed they are chicken when comes to giving out the gospel.

-Nothing ever really happens that is negative when we go tract passing - Most that happens is that you get a door slammed in your face.

-No guns, no knives, no whips, no floggings.

-Nobody bites you.

-The Bible tells us we are to bear reproach for Christ.

-See Hebrews 13:12-13.

Problems Christians want to stay within the Camp -

-To put things in perspective, just remember the shame and the reproach he suffered and went through to save your soul.

Camp with the

-Whatever, you will go through for him on this earth will never compare what he went through for you.

unsaved like

***So, we see then that most Christians today, are ashamed of the Gospel.**

lot did and compromise

I. Paul's declaration that he makes in Romans 1:16 - "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ are not just empty words.

-Paul's words are backed up by the many times that he suffered for the furtherance of the gospel of Christ.

-In fact some of Paul's epistles were written from prison because he was arrested for preaching the gospel of Christ.

-His very life was placed in danger many times for the furtherance of the gospel.

-He was whipped, beaten, shipped wrecked, his friends forsook him, left for dead on the road.

-Because he was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.

-I wonder why Paul was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ?

-What is the gospel of Christ? How does the Bible define it?

***PLEASE TURN IN YOUR BIBLE TO I COR. 15:1-4**

-In I Cor. 15:1-4, we have the gospel of Christ defined.

-Notice four very important things about the gospel of Christ.

- 1) v3 - Christ died
- 2) v3 - Christ died for our sins
- 3) v4 - Christ was buried
- 4) v4 - Christ rose again.

-This is the gospel of Christ pure and simple and very easily read and understood in AV 1611, King James Bible.

-Notice something else that is very important.

-In Verses 3 and 4 the Bible says "according to the scriptures"

- So, the gospel of Christ is not according to some theory
- the gospel of Christ is not according to traditions.
- the gospel of Christ is not according to someone's opinion.

-The gospel of Christ is according to the scriptures.

-We have God's Word on it.

-We know the word of God - "is settled in heaven"

-We know the word of God - "shall not pass away"

-We know the word of God - "the word of our God shall stand for ever."

-We know the word of God - "has been preserved for ever"

-Quote Psalm 12:6-7

-I Peter 1:25 tells us:

- "But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.
And this is the word which by the gospel is
preached unto you."

*So, then we see that the gospel of Christ is clearly defined in I Cor. 15:1-4.

*Paul, the Apostle tells us in no uncertain terms what any other gospel being preached is.

***PLEASE TURN IN YOUR BIBLES TO: GALATIANS 1:8-9.**

*Notice Paul clearly states that anyone including himself and even an angel from heaven preached any other gospel than the one he defined in I Cor. 15.

-Then that person is to be accursed.

-In other words that person is damned.

-Notice Paul says referring to the person preaching any other gospel **"let him be accursed"**

-Paul says this twice in verses 8 and 9.

*So, if a person or a group come up to you and preach any other gospel than the one Paul outlined in I Cor. 15, that person or group is accursed.

*It doesn't matter how respectable they are.

*It doesn't matter how sincere they are.

*It doesn't matter how well intended that person is.

//*The word of God says they are **accursed!!!!**

*The bottom line folks is that religious crowd today make the word of God of none effect by their traditions.

-Tradition:

*Baptizing of infants

-Tradition:

*Sacrifice of the Mass.

-Tradition:

*Prayers for the dead

-Tradition:

*Religious leader, who is sinner who is said to be infallible.

-Tradition ^g ^{called Mary}

*Prayers to woman for salvation

who claimed to be a sinner herself in need of a Savior.

*setting
up a*

-Tradition:

*Salvation through baptism

-Tradition:

*Working to become the one of the chosen 144,000

-Tradition

*Joseph Smith & Jesus

*Remember, what Paul ^{said-} if what is being preached is not the gospel of Christ: the death, the burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, then that individual or group is accursed!!!

*Why was Paul so bold when he made the statement in Romans 1:16

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ."

*Because the conclusion of the matter is this.

-The gospel of Christ "is the power of God unto salvation"

*Paul ^{knew} know that gospel that he preached was the power of God that would save folks that heard the word and believed it.

*As Paul said later on in his Epistle to Romans, "So, then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

*That is why Paul put his life in jeopardy so many times to preach to the gospel of Christ.

*Because he knew it was "the power of God unto salvation."

*Paul knew that the gospel of Christ was the only power that could keep people from the flames of hell and eternal torment.

*Paul had a sense of urgency about his ministry, he knew he had to do whatever it took to get the gospel of Christ to a lost ^{in and} dying world.

*Today, in our society there are many gospels that are being preached.

-Unfortunately, they are all based on the goodness of man and the goodness of God or the grace of God. ^{not}

-The Bible talks about the goodness of man - See Jer. 17:9,

-MT. 15:19, Rom. 3:10-18.

-So much for the goodness of ^{man} God.

-The gospel being preached by our society is both socialistic and humanistic.

-Any they go by such guises as the

- UN

- ACLU (American Civil Liberty Union)
- NOW (National Organization of Women)
- NEA (National Education Association)
- Welfare System
- Public Education System
- The Bill of Rights
- Coalitions - We have all kinds of Coalitions take your pick.
- AMA
- Communism
- Socialism
- Marxist
- Green Peace -

*You get the idea.

*But remember what Paul said if isn't the gospel as outlined in I Cor 15, then that person or group is accursed or damned.

*They are in the dark, they don't even have a clue,

*Remember, what Jesus said SEE JOHN 3:19-21.

*Remember "men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil."

*Christian things have not change since Paul's day.

*"men still loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil"

*The gospel of Christ has not changed, it is and will continue to be the power of God unto salvation"

*Christian you have alot to be ashamed about, but the gospel of Christ is one thing that you should never be ashamed of!!!

*It is the light of the world, don't hid it under a bushel basket, let it and you shine."

*The Bible tells us that we are to "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you."

*Christian you have the greatest message of the greatest story of all times. You have the gospel of Christ which is the power of God unto salvation to those who will believe it.

*Won't you as Paul did stand up and Proclaim, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth..."

PLEA - UNSAVED/SAVED

PRAY