

KEY SCRIPTURE:

“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. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” Romans 1:16-17 ESV

“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,.....”Romans 5:8, 10 ESV

“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 ESV

“Or do you despise the riches of his kindness, restraint, and patience, not recognizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?” Romans 2:4 CSB

“Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God.” Luke 13:3 NLT

“The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,” Acts 17:30 ESV

“There is only one God, and he makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles.” Romans 3:30 NLT

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,” Ephesians 2:8 ESV

“he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. ...” Titus 3:5 NLT

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6 ESV

“There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 NLT

Start Defining. This series launches with several important Theological terms. Work towards having everyone in the group being able to have an ability to verbally explain each term.

- Define Theology.
- What is Soteriology?
- In the context of the Gospel, what is mercy and what is grace?
- Why should Christians consider themselves Theologians in a simple use of the word.

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Option A: Read all of Romans 1 with an emphasis on verses 16-17
Option B: Read Romans 1:16-17
- Why did Paul express his lack of shame in the Gospel? What could have been some reasons he or other Christians in Rome had for being “ashamed of the Gospel?”
- Why is the last portion of Romans 1:16 “*first to the Jew and also the Greek*” so important to both the early church and the modern church?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Share a time when you felt challenged about not being ashamed of the Gospel. What helped you overcome that?
- Work as a group to describe a brief summary of the four controversial gospel truths from this message. Share which one challenges you the most or how you’re growing a deeper understanding of one.
- How is withholding mercy from people who have done wrong a way of being ashamed of the Gospel? Is this easy or difficult for you? Why or why not?
- Why is repentance essential to the Gospel? Can you share how acknowledging your own sinfulness has led to a deeper relationship with God?
- How do you reconcile the need to serve God with the inability to earn salvation?
- Share how you or someone you know struggled with the Gospel’s exclusivity and how you’ve come to understand it better over time.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father in Heaven, thank you for the incredible gift of the Gospel! Help me to grow in the Gospel and my boldness to share it lovingly with the whole world! And Father, please use me to lead many to salvation through the Gospel!

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Memorize Romans 1:16 – and commit to living by it!

AM I ASHAMED OF *THE* GOSPEL?

MEMORY VERSE: “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 ESV

Soteriology (sō-tîr’ē-ōl’ā-jē): The part of theology that deals with salvation through Christ.

4 CONTROVERSIAL GOSPEL TRUTHS

THE GOSPEL PROVIDES MERCY TO EVIL PEOPLE

“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 ESV

“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,.....”Romans 5:8, 10 ESV

THE GOSPEL DEMANDS REPENTANCE

“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 ESV

“Or do you despise the riches of his kindness, restraint, and patience, not recognizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?” Romans 2:4 CSB

“Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God.” Luke 13:3 NLT

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THE GOSPEL CANNOT BE EARNED

“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” Romans 1:17 ESV

“There is only one God, and he makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles.” Romans 3:30 NLT

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“he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. ...” Titus 3:5 NLT

THE GOSPEL MONOPOLIZES SALVATION

“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 ESV

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6 ESV

“There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 NLT

WHAT GOSPEL DO I BELIEVE? ARE YOU ASHAMED OF IT? DO YOU SHARE IT LOVINGLY YET BOLDLY?

NOTES: _____

