

17th of January 2016

The Gospel of Christ preached by Paul (Doctrine of the Gospel) Pt 5

Introduction.

This is our fifth study on the doctrine of the gospel. In our first introductory study on the gospel of the kingdom we established that the KOG and the KOH are **different**: The KOH is physical and earthly, and the KOG is spiritual. Three points were established from our previous study on the gospel that the risen Lord gave to the apostle Paul to preach (1Cor.1: 17):-

(1) Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and (2) He was buried, and (3) He rose again according to the scriptures.

Three points are established from the scriptures for this study.

(1) Be not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, and (2) the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation, and (3) a person receives the gospel of Christ when they believe it in their heart.

Our three points in more detail.

1. Be not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.

Supporting verse.

Rom.1: 16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

Context & setting of our verse.

* Each of our three points are derived from Rom.1: 16, therefore, what we establish as our context and setting in this point will be the same for each of the others.

* Paul the apostle that Christ appointed to be the minister to the Gentiles is writing to the church at Rome, and he establishes Christ's authenticity of being the Son of God "by the resurrection from the dead" (Rom.1: 4). At the time of Paul's writing there was a church in Rome whose "faith is spoken of throughout the whole world" (verse 8). Paul then points out that the purpose of him desiring to come and see them was that he "may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established". Paul desired that they be firmly rooted in the faith of Christ, he did not want the brethren at Rome to be ignorant "that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles" (verse 13). Thus confirming that the church at Rome were Gentiles. Paul feels in debt to the "Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise" (verse 14). How does he repay his debt? "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome". His readiness to preach the gospel was because he was "not ashamed of the gospel of Christ".

Other scriptural support.

Ps.25: 2, 31: 1, 119: 46, Joel 2: 26 & 27, Rom.9: 33, 10: 11, and Phil.1: 20.

Scriptural examples.

* The Lord Jesus said "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels" (Mk.8: 38).

Application of verse today.

* Paul is writing to the Gentile church at Rome and his instructions from Christ to the church are applicable to us today.

Illustration.

* Imagine being a Mormon for 40 years, and believing the gospel that their prophet Joseph Smith said is a "Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ", and you have spent the most part of your adult life labouring door to door in the ministry sharing Joseph Smith's gospel. To die a Mormon you would be cursed for believing **another** gospel (Gal.1: 8, 9) and all those poor souls you convinced to follow Joseph Smith's gospel would also be going to hell for eternity.

Learning from our Illustration.

* Any who preach another gospel are likened to a blind leader of the blind, who according to the Lord “both shall fall into the ditch” (Matt.15: 14). The “good news” of Joseph Smith is a gospel to feel ashamed about. But when you have the hope that is in Christ (Rom.5: 5), and therefore believe the gospel of Christ, then there is **nothing** to be ashamed about, because you, and **all** those who hear, and believe the gospel, are saved from the pit of hell.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* Believe the gospel of Christ for today and be **not** ashamed.

* Stand up and challenge those who believe **another** gospel that they may believe the good news that Christ gave to the apostle Paul, because we are commanded to **not** feel ashamed of **that** gospel.

2. The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation.

Supporting verse.

Rom.1: 16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

Meaning of our verse.

* If God has the power to save a lost sinner from hell–fire then there is nothing to be ashamed of in believing such good news. But imagine if the god you trust for your salvation was Baal who is deaf, dumb, and blind (1Kg.18: 27). But the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ gave His Son “with power...by the resurrection from the dead” (Rom.1: 4). And the resurrection is part of the gospel of Christ (1Cor.15: 4). Hence the gospel of Christ (“my gospel” Rom.16: 25) is “the power of God unto salvation”.

Application of verse today.

* Paul is writing to the Gentile church at Rome and his instructions from Christ to the church are applicable to us today.

Illustration.

* I remember when Karen and I were at the Bible College of New Zealand (now Laidlaw College) and we were at a fellow student’s church Bible study evening, and one of the guys confessed to being fearful of the words of the Lord where He says: “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matt.7 :22–23).

* His fear of those verses stopped me in my tracks, and I did not know what to say, no one did. What an honest man. How do any of us guarantee not to hear those words from our Lord?

Learning from our Illustration.

* The only answer to the question from our illustration is: believe the gospel, the good news that the risen Lord gave to Paul to preach, for THAT gospel “is the power of God unto salvation”. That gospel message **only** has the power to save a man from the wrath of God (Rom.5: 9), hence it is the gospel of Christ, that we are not to be ashamed of (point 1), that is the power of God unto salvation. So if you know anyone that feels ashamed of Christ (like I did before I got saved because I believed error) then maybe they have believed another gospel, and do not know of the power of God unto salvation that is available to all those who believe in the good news of Christ crucified.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* Our encouragement to believers today is to be prepared to challenge the ministers, pastors and teachers in the traditional churches who proclaim the gospel of the kingdom (that we are to bring in the kingdom), as to how anyone can be saved when they believe the kingdom gospel. Because the **only** gospel that is the power of God unto salvation is that which the risen Lord gave to Paul for the church age. So if you feel ashamed, you will never proclaim this gospel to others, and perhaps you believe **another** gospel that has NO power to save you (like the Mormons do), and you **should** be ashamed of, because it is no different to fables that the heathen believe. Whereas, the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation.

3. A person receives the gospel when they believe it in their heart.

Supporting verses.

Rom.1: 16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." C.p.: Rom.10: 9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Context & setting of our verse.

* We have already set the context and setting of our first verse, so let establish the same for our verse from Romans chapter 10.

* In verse one Paul establishes his desire for Israel to be saved, bearing them record that they have a zeal of God, but a zeal without knowledge (verse 2). Their lack of knowledge was around establishing their own righteousness by obedience to the law, hence they were "ignorant of God's righteousness" (verse 3). "For Christ [is] the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Rom 10: 4). The righteousness of the law is only established when a man obeys all of the law (verse 5). But there is a righteousness which is of faith (verse 6), which Paul affirms in verse 8 is that "which we preach", and he alludes to the fact that it takes place "in thy heart". Then we have our verse, where Paul completes the relationship between faith and the heart when he says "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Hence, faith takes place in a man's heart.

Application of verse today.

* Paul is writing to the Gentile church at Rome and his instructions from Christ to the church are applicable to us today.

Illustration.

* Friday night on Queen street is a great opportunity to establish for yourself the condition of those who claim to be Christian, but after some questions appear to be similar to those that have believed in vain (1Cor.15: 2). Why?

Because many that stop and talk about the Lord do so from a head knowledge. And some of their head knowledge errs not knowing the scriptures, but those who believe something close to the gospel of Christ often believe it in their head and not accompanied by a belief in the heart.

Learning from our Illustration.

* Whether a person errs by believing another gospel, or whether they err by believing the gospel of Christ in their head only, the end result is the same. Salvation has not taken place. Why?

Because salvation ONLY takes place when a person believes in their heart the gospel of Christ (that is the power of God unto salvation). And the verse that follows Rom.10: 9 (our verse) says: "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom.10: 10). Hence once belief in the heart takes place a person then confesses with their mouth their belief in the risen Lord.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* Christ preached the KOH and the KOG and said to receive this gospel a person believes, endures to the end, and is baptised.

* Question: Is the gospel that Christ preached the same as the risen Lord gave to Paul? NO, it is different. To say otherwise is to believe the traditions of man and to err not knowing the scriptures. So examine yourself whether you have received this good news of Christ in the head only or also in the heart. If you have then you believe it in your heart unto righteousness – "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom.10: 10).

Summary of points.

(1) Be not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, and (2) the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation, and (3) a person receives the gospel of Christ when they believe it in their heart.