

051224

## "Not Ashamed of the Gospel"

*Romans 1:7-17*

Shawn Reese



### **Background**

This Sunday where we come to what many say is the thesis of the letter. Paul is not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord. And, why is he not ashamed? Because it is the "dynamite" of God that discloses the righteousness of God. It is the only thing that can possibly break through the deceitful human heart and bring about right relationships. Paul will expound on these verses for the rest of Romans! Join us as we explore this powerful text.

### **Sermon Text:** *Romans 1:7-17 (NIV)*

*<sup>7</sup> To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:*

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*

### *Paul's Longing to Visit Rome*

*<sup>8</sup> First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. <sup>9</sup> God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you <sup>10</sup> in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.*

*<sup>11</sup> I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— <sup>12</sup> that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. <sup>13</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles.*

*<sup>14</sup> I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. <sup>15</sup> That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.*

*<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last,<sup>[a]</sup> just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."<sup>[c]</sup>*

## **Discussion Questions**

### **1. Preparation**

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

### **2. Sunday Questions:**

1. To make Jesus known, how would you answer the following questions when non-believers ask:
  - Only one way to get to heaven?
  - A God who dies on a cross?
  - A person who is resurrected from the dead?
2. What are the reasons for Paul's longing to visit Rome? Do you have the same longing for God's church, in-
  - Praying for brothers and sisters everywhere?
  - Gaining fruit for God?
  - Any other longings for God's church?

3. Considering Paul's deep feelings for the gospel, discuss the following attitudes he has towards the gospel:

- Obligated and eager to share
- Not ashamed to share the gospel

Consider yourself as the Gospelized- "the embodiment in a people who claim allegiance to Jesus...The Gospel breathes in these people." Suggest some ways to follow Paul's example in your attitude towards sharing God's gospel.

4. Paul said *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes—"(Romans 1:16)*. Do you experience the power, or dunamis/ the dynamite, of God when you share the gospel? Discuss why "the Gospel is the dynamite of God," in each of the following verses from Shawn's sermon:

- Salvation to everyone who believes (v.16)
- The Righteousness of God (v.17a)
- The Righteous Live by Faith (v.17b) and Hab.2:4 ("Look at the proud one; his soul is not upright- but the righteous will live by faith-.")

5. How does Leong's sharing about his recent experience in the prison ministry, demonstrate his "not being ashamed of the Gospel," and reflect the dynamite of the gospel? In what ways are you inspired by Leong's story?