

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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Be A World Changer
GROWTH GUIDE

Handout: 7/9/2017
Study: 7/16/17

Preaching the Gospel

In Romans 1, Paul addresses the Gentile believers at Rome and begins by explaining his mission, which was to preach the gospel to everyone. He concludes his explanation by saying, “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. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith’” (Romans 1:16–17; cf. Habakkuk 2:4).

The word translated “ashamed” means “disgraced” or “personally humiliated.” A person “ashamed” in this way is like someone singled out for misplacing his confidence—he trusted in something, and that something let him down. The word can refer to being dishonored because of forming the wrong alliances. So, when Paul says that he is not ashamed of the gospel, he is saying his confidence in the gospel is not misplaced. There is no disgrace in declaring it. Paul had given his life to proclaiming the truths that Jesus Himself had revealed to him (Acts 9:3–6; 2 Corinthians 12:2–4). He explained to the Romans why he did not believe that he had wrongly identified with Jesus and why proclaiming Jesus’ message was his life’s work.

The application can extend to us as well. Just as Paul placed his confidence in the gospel of Christ, so can we. We can proclaim with boldness the truths that God has revealed in His Word, with no fear that our confidence is misplaced. “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame” (Romans 10:11; cf. Isaiah 28:16). We can rest in the knowledge that the Holy Spirit who inspired the writing of Scripture never changes (2 Peter 1:21; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8). What was true thousands of years ago is still true. The offer of salvation that was presented to people of the first century is still open to us (Acts 2:39; John 17:20).

To live unashamed of the gospel means we proclaim it, but it also means we apply it to our lives and show we believe it. Paul’s life choices supported his message. He did not preach one thing and live another. We are “ashamed of the gospel” when we allow sin in our lives to go unchecked (Matthew 3:8). When we indulge in worldliness and carnal desires or blatantly disobey scriptural standards, we indicate that we lack confidence in our own message (1 Corinthians 3:3; 1 Peter 2:11). When we “walk in the counsel of the ungodly, stand in the path of sinners, and sit in the seat of scoffers” (Psalm 1:1), we are being ashamed of the gospel. We are not allowing its truth to penetrate our lives so that others see its changing power. To live unashamed of the gospel means that we, like Paul, allow it to dominate our lives to the extent that everyone within our sphere of influence can see that we have “been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13).

(Source gotquestions.org)

KEY VERSE

Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Romans 1:8-17

Introduction

If someone close to you were to describe you, what are some good qualities that they would say about you?

In this passage Paul says that their faith is spoken of throughout the world. What is your reputation at work or in your neighborhood?

Tuesday: Romans 1:8-13; 1 Thessalonians 2:5-8

Paul’s Heart for People

What are some words that describe Paul’s feelings toward the people he ministers to?

Do you have people in your life that you feel similarly about?

Wednesday: Romans 1:14-15; Ephesians 3:8-13

Paul the Debtor

In what sense is Paul "obligated"? Do we have any obligations of this kind? Why or why not?

How ready do you feel to preach the gospel to those around you?

Thursday: Romans 1:16-17; John 14:6; Acts 4:12

Unashamed of the Gospel

Why is Paul not ashamed of the gospel (vv. 16-17)? Why might he feel a need to state this?

In what sense is the gospel powerful? (v. 16) How is that power demonstrated?

Why might we be ashamed of the gospel?

Why should we not feel ashamed?

Friday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Application

What is the gospel in your words?

If the gospel is indeed “the power of God,” how should that power be demonstrated in your life?

As believers, we often view personal evangelism as a daunting and forced task, for which we are under-prepared and unqualified. How can you make evangelism a natural part of everyday life?

What are some practical steps you can take to live unashamed of the gospel?