CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP UNASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

SCRIPTURE READING:

"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. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith" (Rom 1:16-17).

INTRODUCTION:

- **A.** The Gospel is defined as the <u>Good News</u> concerning Christ and the way of salvation. Through Christ, the <u>Good News</u> comes. His shed blood on the cross at Calvary allows God to forgive sinners of all their sins. In Christ, the invitation is given to accept that forgiveness as a free gift and so come into a personal relationship with God.
- **B. "Ashamed"** means to be discouraged, dishonored, afraid, lack of courage to stand for something or to be personally humiliated. Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel He had confidence in the Gospel and so should all Believers boldly declaring and identifying with Jesus.
- C. A young man got up to give his testimony for Christ in an open meeting. Not being accustomed to speaking in public, he stammered a good deal at first. An atheist who came by shouted at him, "You ought to be ashamed of yourself standing and talking like that" "You're right," the young man replied. "I am ashamed of myself, but I'm not ashamed of Christ."

Reasons why we should not be ashamed of the Gospel:

I. The Source of the Gospel

<u>Jesus Christ</u> is the only source of the Gospel. He is the only means in which a person can be saved.

- o "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).
- o "And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world" (1 John 4:14).

II. The Message of the Gospel

- **A.** It is the **Power** of God for everyone who Believes it, to be saved (salvation).
- **B.** Anyone who places their faith in Christ and His death for their sins on the Cross will be Justified will be made right with God, declared not guilty and welcomed into the family of God.
- o "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).
- o "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3:26).

C. Definitions of Salvation

- o Deliverance, made whole, preservation, safety.
- 1. Salvation is deliverance from being lost.
 Salvation means that Jesus saves sinners from their lost condition. He places them on the right road that leads to eternal life.
 - o "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).
 - o "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture" (John 10:9).
- 2. Salvation is deliverance from sin.
 Salvation saves man from the enslavement, burden of guilt and shame of sin.
 - "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt 1:21).
 - o "And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace" (Luke 7:50).
 - o "And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world" (John 12:47).
- 3. Salvation is deliverance in the future from all evil and corruption, death, and hell.
 - o "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him" (1 Thess 5:9-10).
 - o "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (2 Tim 4:18).

III. The Elements of the Gospel

- "³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: ⁵ And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: ⁶ After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep" (1 Cor 15:3-6).
- **A.** Paul "received" the Gospel and then passed it on. The Gospel is a godly message, not a man-made invention.
- **B.** The Gospel is of first importance. Everywhere the Apostles went, they preached Jesus Christ.
 - "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor 1:18

- o "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (1 Cor 1:21).
- o "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness" (1 Cor 1:23).
- C. The Proofs of the Gospel (1 Cor 15:3-4)
 - 1. "Christ died for our sins"
 - 2. "He was buried"
 - **3.** "He rose again the third day"
 - **4.** All this was done "according to the Scriptures"

Points to Ponder:

- 1. Do not be ashamed of the Gospel nor of Christ Jesus
 - o "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels" (Luke 9:26).
 - o "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us" (2 Tim 2:12).
- **2.** Do not be ashamed to witness for Christ, share the Gospel with confidence. Remember, the life changing power of the Gospel.
- **3.** Ask God to help us live the <u>Good News</u> of the Gospel. We are to live unashamed of the Gospel which means that we apply it to our lives and show we believe in the Gospel of Christ.

4. I'm Not Ashamed to Own My Lord

I'm not ashamed to own my Lord, or to defend his cause, maintain the honor of his Word, the glory of his cross. Jesus, my God! I know his name, his name is all my trust; nor will he put my soul to shame, nor let my hope be lost.

CONCLUSION:

A. I'm Part of the Fellowship of the Unashamed

"I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I'm finished and down with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need prominence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions are few, my Guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me - my banner will be clear." – (Avery T. Wills).

B. The ABC's of Salvation

- o <u>A</u>dmit That You Are A Sinner. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23)
- $\underline{\mathbf{B}}$ elieve On Christ. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).
- © onfess Your Faith. "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation" (Rom 10:9-10).

MEMORY VERSE:

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom 8:1).

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"... the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isa 40:8).