

I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL - 3/7/21

Today's message is on the need for greater boldness — in Christians, and in those who will later become Christians. Let's read 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;...”

Remember, the word Gospel means Good News. Everyone needs that. The Gospel brings peace to the heart, forgiveness, self-worth, fulfillment, a good conscience, hope, and healing, the promise of a bright future, and eternal life, and many many other blessings. What good news!

When anyone receives Christ, they are inviting the Creator to live in them. The Lord has the answers for every problem we face. What a privilege. Yet many people are backward, timid, embarrassed to speak of Christ. The gospel is the greatest message to man. Peace, forgiveness, blessing.

The problem of embarrassment, shame, rejection

Paul said, I am not ashamed of all these blessings the Gospel brings. What does it mean to be ashamed? It's a fear of reproach, embarrassment. It is to worry about what others will think of me, of being rejected. This is a great problem of the human heart. People's opinion of me.

To be more concerned about what people think of me, than God. So - Are you ashamed of God, or His Son who paid our debt on the cross? There was seen a man in hell, and he was asked, — why are you here? He said, because I loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

John 12:42-43. “...among the chief rulers many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”

Some people are ashamed to be identified with Christ.

They're afraid of what friends / family think of them if they confess Christ.

Yet, Jesus makes this statement:

If you are ashamed of me, I will be ashamed of you. Read:

Mr. 8:38* Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

The confession of our mouth of being identified with Christ, very important.

Not only believing in our heart, but confessing with our mouth.

This seals our salvation. Of course we must continue to live in obedience.

Let's read Romans 10:9, KJV.

“That if you 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.”

I realize this message is not so much for those are listening right now, but God wants to use us to help many other people in their relationship with God. The Lord wants to use every one of us to rescue many souls.

One of the greatest problems in man is fear

This is stated in Revelation 21:7, 8:

“He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake...of fire”

The first thing that is mentioned that we must overcome, is fear.

Fear of what people think of us. I want to know what God thinks of me.

There are too many secret believers.

Mt 10:32* Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

**Would you like to have Jesus Christ confess you before the Father? Yes!
So first, confess Jesus Christ before men, he will confess you to the father.**

A personal testimony

**When I was a young man, I was very quiet, introverted, and alone.
It was very hard for me even to give an oral book report in high school.
Public speaking was very difficult for me.**

**But then, At age 17, I went through a major surgery. I was broken!
After that, I made a fresh commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ.
I received a tremendous burden for lost souls. I was desperate.
I pray fervently long hours every night.
“Lord, save eternal souls. I do not want them to perish forever.”
I was so desperate for the lost, I put all my inhibitions behind me.
I didn’t care what anyone thought of me, I wanted people to be saved.**

**I witnessed to my Jewish boss, and to fellow workers, and strangers.
I went to nursing homes, talking to elderly people about Christ.
I desperately wanted them to be ready for heaven.
I would say to an elderly, afflicted person, are you ready for heaven?
Often they would say, I hope so, or I don't know! Then I said to them, -
Would you like to know for sure that you're ready for heaven?
They’d always say, yes! So I explained the simple gospel message:**

**That God became a man, paid our debt on the cross, offers eternal life.
Would you invite him into your life, have forgiveness, and eternal life.
Almost always they responded!**

As a young man, I came to the end of myself, and put away my inhibitions. I realized, God had just rescued me from my problems, and eternal misery, And I wanted others to be saved from eternal loss also.

By God's grace, we can overcome timidity, and be bold for Christ. Today, my wife and I travel around the world, speaking to many people. We have even ministered to dignitaries, and leaders in high places.

So friends, are we willing to be completely identified with Christ? Are we ashamed of him, or ashamed of part of His words or teachings? Yes, we believe Jesus saves, and heals, and does miracles. But, do we think his moral standards are too strict? Are we ashamed of any part of Him?

The Lord wants a people compatible with him, conformed to his image. He is saying, if you want to be my bride don't be ashamed of any part of me I do not want a bride who is ashamed of me, and what I stand for. I want you to fully agree with my Word! (He is the Word of God.)

Remember again Paul's words in Romans 1:16: I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the power of God unto salvation. The gospel is able to change sinful people into good people. It changed Paul! The gospel is good news. You can have peace, forgiveness, fulfillment, healing in marriage, promise of eternal life, and many other blessings.

Wrong thinking: Oh I don't want to listen to a boring sermon every Sunday. I cannot have fun anymore. I can't do this, I can't do this, or that! No! When you receive Christ, you invited the Prince of peace to live in you. You have invited the Author of life to live within you. He is wisdom. He gives us a good conscience and happiness. This is real Christianity. I'm not ashamed of the gospel.

The apostle Paul knew what the gospel had done for him. Totally changed. And he knew what the Gospel could do for many other people. He had great confidence in the Gospel he preached.

Not ashamed of other persecuted Christians

A man named Onesiphorus was not ashamed to be identified with Paul who was in chains. God has given him an eternal name of honor. 2 Ti.1:15-18

“all they who are in Asia {a Roman province} are turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes. The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:

But, when he was in Rome, he sought me very diligently, and found me. The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered to me at Ephesus, you know very well.”

A mild admonition to Timothy

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;” 2 Timothy 1:7, 8, KJV.

Young Timothy struggled with fears, embarrassment, reproach; so Paul exhorts him not to be ashamed of the gospel, or of him.

Many Christians struggle with the spirit of fear, embarrassment, timidities. We're exhorted, God has not given us the spirit of fear but love, power, and a sound mind.

The apostle Paul was ashamed of nothing. He had complete confidence in The gospel, the good news that he preached.

Psalms 119:6 states: "... I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments." Let us respect everything God says.

We have the only thing that can save the human race.

We have Jesus, the truth. Jesus is the truth, the only way to heaven.

The information we have is the only thing that can save humanity.

Let us be bold to share it with others.

Every law that God gives, brings freedom and happiness.

Why are people in prison? In bondage? They have broken God's laws.

You shall not steal, you shall not kill, you shall not commit adultery,

You shall not covet.... Violating these laws brings terrible bondage.

But honoring these laws brings freedom.

Lord, we're not ashamed of you or your word! Give us great boldness to proclaim you! In closing, let's consider Acts 4:29-31. The apostles prayed:

"Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."

This is what God wants from us - to speak the word of God with boldness.

Not to be timid or shy, but with great confidence, and in great love.

May the Lord totally deliver us from all embarrassment or shame.

It is a privilege to be identified the creator of heaven and earth.

I am not ashamed of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the only real answer for mankind's needs. Amen!