



Sunday, September 13, 2020
Pastor H Levi McClendon III

Intro to Romans 1:16

This verse is perhaps one of the most well-known among evangelical Christians. You find it on t-shirts, bumper stickers, even tattoos. It serves as a theme verse for missions and evangelism of all kinds—both local and global. Yet, there is a danger for us as we approach this verse given our culture and the time in which we live. In our culture, we can actually miss the point if we focus on the initial statement: “I am not ashamed of the gospel.” See, our culture is all about being unashamed. We love to proclaim the truth about ourselves and our chosen identities. Social media has exploded for just this reason: we get to unashamedly proclaim to the world all that is ME. So we must be careful that we don’t stop at being unashamed of the gospel simply because WE believe it.

For Paul, his boldness about proclaiming the gospel—his “unashamed-ness” was rooted in something profound, namely, that “it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” It is the power of God for salvation that makes Paul unashamed of the gospel. It is God and His character that he is most concerned with and most concerned with others knowing. For Paul, proclaiming Christ wasn’t about proclaiming something about *his* identity, but the identity of God.

Context

Interestingly, power is perhaps the most prominent feature of the gospel for Paul. This word “power” appears in several of the most prominent gospel texts. It appears here, in what is essentially the thesis of Romans (1:16-17). It appears in 1 Corinthians 1:18 referring to the “word of the cross.” It appears in Ephesians 1:19, which then is the point that gets expounded in all of Ephesians 2. It appears in 1 Thessalonians 1:5 referring to how the gospel transformed the lives of those Christians. The gospel is powerful!

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Romans 1:16-20

“Unashamed of the Gospel”

I. The Gospel Is Good News

II. The Gospel Is the Power of God unto Salvation

III. The Gospel Is Universal

Discuss

- 1) Why do you think people are resistant to the idea of the “bad news” that makes the gospel “good news”?
- 2) How does sin distort our view of God, ourselves, and others?
- 3) What are some common solutions to the problems of our day apart from the gospel? Why do they ultimately fail?
- 4) Pastor Levi mentioned that “Paul, who once fought the faith, was now fighting for the faith.” Is there anyone in your life that you have ever considered “too far gone” to become a Christian? How did that change your interactions with them?
- 5) What is it that might make us as Christians ashamed of the gospel? How can we remedy that?