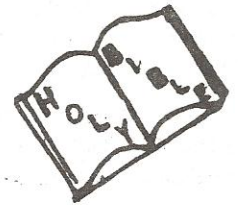


SOUNDING OUT THE



A MINISTRY OF GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - HOUSTON, TEXAS - DIRECTOR: GLEN E. TROPP

1979 MARCH

I Am Not Ashamed Of The Gospel

BY
GLEN E. TROPP

I am speaking today on the subject, "I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel." In Romans 1:16 we note the following words penned by the Apostle Paul as he wrote by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

"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."

We have all experienced moments or times in our lives when we were ashamed. These moments came because we were (1) Ashamed because of something we did; (2) Ashamed because of some word or words we spoke in a moment of anger; (3) Ashamed because of our inability or insufficiency intellectually; or (4) Ashamed because of our lack of material possessions. Yes, we can all identify with the subject of being ashamed.

However, in this message, I do not want to dwell on the negatives, but rather the positives. Surely, there are times when we need to pay close attention to the negatives. Any sane and sen-

sible student of the scriptures knows the necessity of studying the Positives and Negatives as seen in God's Wonderful Word. The whole of God's universe includes both the positives and negatives. If we are to be faithful in the declaration of the whole counsel of God, we must preach ALL of the Word. Seemingly, the problem has arisen because of the unbalance that is seen in many peoples lives and ministry. There are some who swing out to the right and declare only the positives and go to seed on it to the point that the summation of their lives and ministry reflects not the fruitfulness that it should. While, on the other hand, there are those who swing to the left and become so negative in their person and presentation they lose all of the vibrancy, vision, and Victory in Jesus Christ our Lord. May God grant us the Spiritual illumination and wisdom to be a well balanced Christian.

Now, as we notice this subject, "I Am Not Ashamed Of The Gospel," let us study it from these 4 areas:

- I. THE DEFINING OF THE GOSPEL.
- II. THE DYNAMIC OF THE GOSPEL.
- III. THE DELIGHTFULNESS OF THE GOSPEL.
- IV. THE DECLARATION THAT NEEDS TO BE DECLARED.

Let us notice first the DEFINING OF THE GOSPEL. The word Gospel means good news. In relation to its Biblical usage it refers to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore the Gospel of Jesus Christ refers to the good news concerning what Jesus Christ has done for us. A good definition of this gospel is summed up by the Apostle Paul as he wrote to the Lords Church in Corinth,

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received and wherein ye stand: By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures: And that he was buried, and

that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

My dear friends, may I say again, "I'm Not Ashamed Of The Gospel."

Now, let us notice THE DYNAMIC OF THE GOSPEL. This refers to its power. Praise the Lord, we can surely say that where the Word of the King is there is power. Again, may we refer to our text in Romans 1:16 and note specifically what Paul said. He said, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation....." Amen and Amen. Also we find in I Corinthians 1:18 these words, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." The cross is part of the Gospel. Surely we will all agree with the writer of Hebrews when he said, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Next, we'll notice the DELIGHTFULNESS OF THE GOSPEL. It is delightful because of who it's about. It's about Jesus Christ. First of all, it informs us of His LOVE. Read and listen closely to the words of John 3:16, Romans 5:8, I John 4:10, and John 15:13.

In the second place, it informs us of His LOYALTY. Our Lord was loyal to His Heavenly Father's will. Yes, He was willing to leave the portals of glory and come down to this sin cursed earth and robe himself in a

human body and subject himself to the limitations of a human body and fulfill the plans and purposes of His Heavenly Father as ordained before the foundation of the World. Even in the moments of intense strain and struggle he Prayed, "Father, not my will, but Thine be done." Oh, the Delightfulness of seeing a Son so loyal to His Father.

In the third place, it informs us of His LAYING down His Life for all humanity. Jesus said in reference to His life these words, "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself, I have power to lay it down and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my father." John 10:18. In Hebrews 2:9 we see another parallel scripture which teaches the same truth.

In the fourth place it informs us of His LIBERATION FROM THE GRAVE. This is seen in Matthew 28: 1-8. Thank God, He lives! I know He lives. The reasons why that I can make this declaration are as follows: I know He lives because the Word of God tells me that He arose from the grave. He was liberated from that place. I know He lives because of the fact that He appeared to His disciples after the resurrection and spoke words of peace to them. I know He lives because He was seen by at least 500 brethren at one time. I know He lives because the Holy Spirit dwells in all believers and is with His Church in a special way and we can have the Witness of His Spirit with our spirit and this happened because He ascended up to the heavens after His resurrection.

He told His disciples that He must go away but he promised them that when He did depart He would send unto them the Comforter or Holy Spirit and He would abide with them forever. The very fact that the Holy Spirit is here in the world today is a proof that Jesus Christ was liberated from the grave. So, I'm not ashamed of the Gospel because of the delightful message concerning the LOVE, the LOYALTY, the LAYING down and the LIBERATION of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As we continue to notice the Delightfulness of the gospel, may I say that it's delightful because of what it declares that He can do.

First, He LIFTS us up from the horrible pit of sin. I believe this is beautifully illustrated in Psalms 40: 1-3. "Thanks be unto the Lord because He heard my pleading, picked me up, placed my feet on a solid rock, preserves my soul, and put a new song in my heart."

Second, He LIBERATES us from the Kingdom of darkness and despair. This is taught in I Peter 2:9. I'm so glad that because of Him, because of the message of the Gospel, man doesn't have to grope around in darkness and live a life of despair but he can be enlightened through the receiving of the engrafted word which is able to save mans soul and give him a purpose for living. Thank God that in Christ Jesus, we are placed in the kingdom of LIFE, LIGHT, and LIBERTY.

Thirdly, He LIBERATES us from the clutches of the culprit and evil one him-

self, the Devil. This does not mean that the Devil will leave us alone after we're saved, because he doesn't. What it does mean is that we have a power within us that is greater than the world or the Devil and if we'll submit to the Leadership of the Spirit according to the Word of God we can overcome the devil and his tactics. Notice these two verses, I Corinthians 10:13 and I John 4:4.

In the fourth place we notice that He LEADS us to a position whereby we can receive forgiveness, fullness, and fruitfulness. Yes, forgiveness is available to us because of Him. This is taught in I John 1:9. What a glorious truth and blessing this information is to our hearts. The only problem here is that many times, due to our Adamic nature, we will not allow Him to lead us to the place of repentance. There must be repentance and confession before one can experience forgiveness.

Fulness, in this instance, refers to ones being controlled by the Lord. Therefore, with Him, by Him and through Him, we have available to us everything that we stand in need of to make us Fruitful Christians. Read John 15:4-8. A fruitful Christian is one who yields to the leadership of the Spirit and allows the Lord through the Spirit, to bring to pass in our lives the fruits of the Spirit. The Fruits of the Spirit are listed in Gal. 5:22-23. This is not done through Self Effort but rather Self Discipline and Submission to the teachings of the Word of God.

For all of these reasons I can certainly DECLARE that I'm Not Ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What He's done for me, He'll do for you! I'm Delivered, Delighted, and Determined to tell the World this Good News. I'm not ashamed to bear His name.

In Conclusion, let me use this illustration. There once was a man who was the Superintendent of a city cemetery who lived in a small cottage just inside the cemetery gate. The constant funeral processions bothered him for awhile, but after awhile he became hardened to all of this and could sleep peacefully through it all. I use this example to illustrate the following. Was there a time that the Gospel set your heart aglow with love and made you dissatisfied with the smallness of your sacrifice and service for Christ? Have the 'spirit of the times' and the 'cares of this life' blunted the keen sensitive edge you formerly had for the things of God? Hast thou a name that thou livest and art dead? I'M NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL!

Spiritual Deafness

BY
JOHNNY WILLIAMS

TEXT: ZECH. 7:8-14

INTRODUCTION: How many of you have ever said about your children, "Oh, I wish they would listen."
How do you think God feels about man?

I. THE REASONS FOR SPIRITUAL DEAFNESS.

A. Sin.

1. The Love of it.
2. Matt. 13:22

B. Self.

1. The belief that there is plenty of time to be saved. Felix trembled but refused.
2. The belief that the Christians don't know what they're talking about.

C. Satan.

1. Seeks to keep men blinded to the Gospel.
2. II Cor. 4:3-4

II. THE RESULTS OF SPIRITUAL DEAFNESS.

- A. God will one day laugh and mock....Prov. 1:26-27
- B. God will refuse to answer sinners plea.Prov.1:28
- C. God will see to it that the sinner who refused to hear His word shall reap what he has sown.

Gal. 6:7

III. THE REWARDS OF SPIRITUAL DEAFNESS.

- A. Separation from family.
- B. Separation from friends.
 1. Luke 16:19-31
- C. Eternal torment.
 1. Rev. 20:12-15

CONCLUSION: It would behoove each one to listen to the Word of God, not because we say so, but because it is commanded of God to do so.