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 sensible 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 scrip-
tures."

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. A-
gain, 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 per-
ish 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 twoedged
sword, piercing even to the
dividing asunder of soul and
spirit, and of the joints and
marrow, and is a dis-
cerning of the thoughts and
intent of the heart."

Next, we'll notice the
DELIGHTFULNESS OF THE GOS-
PHEL. It is delightful be-
cause of who it's about.
It's about Jesus Christ.
First of all, it informs us
of His LOVE. Read and lis-
ten closely to the words of
John 3:16, Romans 5:8, I

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 him-
self to the limitations of
a human body and fulfill
the plans and purposes of
His Heavenly Father as or-
dained before the founda-
tion of the World. Even in
the moments of intense strain
and struggle he Prayed, "Fa-
ther, not my will, but Thine
be done." Oh, the Delight-
fulness of seeing a Son so
loyal to His Father.

In the third place, it
informs us of His LAYING
down His Life for all hu-
manity. Jesus said in re-
ference 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 com-
mandment 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 LIBERA-
TION 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 decla-
ration 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 be-
cause 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 hea-
vens after His resurrection.

He told His disciples that
He must go away but he pro-
mised them that when He did
depart He would send unto
them the Comforter or Holy
Spirit and He would abide
with them forever. The ver-
y 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 concern-
ing the LOVE, the LOYALTY,
the LAYING down and the LIB-
ERATION of the Lord Jesus
Christ.

As we continue to no-
tice 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 so-
lid rock, preserved 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 a-
ble to save mans soul and
give him a purpose for liv-
ing. 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-
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!

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**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.

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.