

Introduction:

Good Morning...It is good to be here with you all...It is an honor to bring the Word of God here this morning...

If you are a visitor I hope you feel welcomed and warmly greeted...If you are interested in membership or in joining one of the many connecting points here at Calvary I'd like to talk with you following the service today...,

As most of you know, We currently just began last week a study in the Book of Romans...Studying The Book of Romans is a well that never dries...Its depth, spiritual and practical insight is one of the things that makes it a staple for the last two thousand years...

I came across an interesting quote on the Book of Romans this week...In fact, Someone posted on my Facebook wall this week ...It says this... "Time and time again in the course of church history...The Book of Romans has liberated the minds of men, brought them back to an understanding of the essential Gospel of Christ...and started spiritual revolutions..."

As I mentioned a couple weeks ago...The plan is to teach the Book of Romans in four volumes...potentially taking a break to teach other books between each volume in order to keep the deep truths in the Book of Romans fresh and engaging...

Before we begin our time in Romans let us go to the Lord in prayer...

Let us Pray...

ME:

In a broad sense...Today, I'd like to talk to you about shame...about shame...And yet...As I thought about this week's passage I realized something about shame...I came up with actually three observations about Shame...

#1: Shame is fickle, #2: Shame is crippling...#3: We as Christians have Shame Despite Freedom

#1: Shame is fickle...

Shame is fickle because it takes on many different forms...We experience shame regarding sin and self-worth...over our past or status...But shame is not just over sin or self-worth but we can have shame often over even minute matters...

- Some of us are ashamed over matters that are minute...such as shame over our favorite sports team... Some of us experience shame because we are a Cleveland Browns fan...or I myself that I am a Dallas Cowboy fan...

- Some of us are ashamed that we have no hair or that we look older than we actually are... Or shame over what we drive or where we live...

Transition: But Shame does not just reside on minute matter but on even deeper matters...

Some of us perhaps experience shame over our status in life or over our job...

-- To tell you a quick story: When I moved back from DTS in Texas, I worked as a waiter at Outback Steakhouse to pay bills until a ministry opportunity opened up... So here I am 30 years old with a Bachelor's Degree and a Masters Degree a...ThM Degree from DTS waiting tables... Old Huntsville friends walked in saying hello and then I remember feeling shame over my job...

Transition: Ultimately, Shame is fickle... It takes on many different forms... But shame can be much more than just fickle... Shame can be crippling...

#2: Shame is crippling... Shame can be so crippling... All of us in this room are crippled to some degree by shame of our past... **by shame from past poor decisions...or over our past parental mistakes...**

We each have skeletons of sin and shame that haunt us... And Oftentimes in an attempt at self-preservation... We throw our shame into the prison of our heart never to let it out but always to hear its screams...

Transition: But My third observation is that we experience #3: shame despite freedom...

As Christians, we don't have to allow the shame of status or the shame of sin to chip away at our souls... Because we as Christians have freedom from the shame of sin... Oh friends, Listen to this amazing verse that prove our freedom from our shame...

Listen to in 2 Corinthians 5,

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21... "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, ^[h]**he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.** ¹⁸ Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, **not counting their trespasses against them,** and ^[l]He has ^[l]committed to us the word of reconciliation."

Oh friends if you are a believer in Jesus Christ you are a new creation... That God does not count your trespasses against you... So then why do we count them against ourself?

Transition: But then as I was meditating on this week's passage, I realized a 4th observation regarding shame... I realized something about most Christians... That oftentimes we are shameful of the very thing that gives us freedom from shame...

Hmm.....The Gospel is the very thing that gives us freedom from shame yet we often live ashamed of the Gospel...

Many of us do not live shamelessly for the Gospel... The reason I know this is because I watch... I watch Christians... I am a professional observer...

We as Christians are ashamed of the Gospel...How do I know this? Because so many Christians avoid telling others that they are a Christian, So many Christians avoid

opportunities to share the life giving freedom of the Gospel to a stranger, **So Many Christians** go weeks and weeks perhaps years and years without share the Gospel message to another...

Listen, friends, It is a great tragedy that the very thing that sets us free from the shame of sin... We are then oftentimes ashamed of...

The Very Gospel that saves us, that redeems us, that provides us freedom from the enslavement of sin and shame... Is the very thing we are ashamed of... And that my friends is shameful...

Transition: But for us today... More specifically... I'd like to narrow down beyond a general discussion on shame and actually talk about the aspect of shame that is mentioned in Romans 1:8-17... Today I'd like to talk to you about **living shamelessly for the Gospel**... About living shamelessly for the Gospel...

And today we will see two points to live shamelessly for the Gospel... Two intuitive Biblical truths that should compel each of us to live shamelessly for the sake of the Gospel...

Transition: So come with me to Romans Chapter 1... Romans chapter 1 and we will be looking at verses 8-17 beginning with verse 8...

GOD:

Read verse 8, *“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.”*

Notice here in verse 8, why is Paul thankful for the Church in Rome? Because “their faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world...” The “because” here is showing the reason for Paul’s thankfulness for the Church in Rome...

And From this simple phrase *“your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world”* what can we tell about the church in Rome?

#1: They live shamelessly for the Gospel... Right? That even in the capital city of Rome.... A city sweltering with paganism... A city filled with temples and shrines for the worship of multiple gods... A city that is staunch against the new invention of any new religion... That the church in Rome in a massively hostile environment are living shamelessly sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ...

Transition: What else can we tell about the church in Rome?

#2: Their Shameless living is so great that it spreads... Notice in verse 8... “Your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world...” The term “whole world” is likely hyperbole but still shows that their message is being spread to many, many nations... Merchants and tradesmen come to Rome to trade and conduct business... Then they hear the Gospel from the Church in Rome, and then they carry the message with them to Spain, to North Africa.... To eventually throughout the whole world...

BUT.....But what is compelling their shamelessness in verse 9? (Don't answer)

Transition: But then the tables turn from the Church in Rome's Shamelessness for the Gospel...And quickly shifts to Paul's relationship to the actual Church in Rome...Look at verses 9-10,

Read verses 9-10, *“For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you, 10 always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.*

What is Paul's relationship to the Church in Rome?

#1: He prays for them unceasingly...

#2: He longs to see them...

Transition: But notice in the next verses...Why does Paul long to see them? Paul gives three reasons in verses 11-15 for why he longs to see them...Notice the first reason in verse 11...
“Verse 11, “For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;”

What is the first reason why Paul wishes to see them? Reason #1: To Establish Them or To Strengthen Them

Now.....when I was studying verse 11...I was puzzled...Because What does Paul mean when he says, *“I may impart some spiritual gift to you...”*

I know what your initial thought is on “spiritual gift” is here...Your initial thought was mine...We think of “spiritual gift” here as referring to THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS which are found in Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4, 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12...Yet, I do not believe this is Paul's intention....

Why is this not the proper understanding?

- If it refers to a “THE Spiritual gifts” in Romans 12 such as the spiritual gifts of prophecy or teaching or wisdom then it seems that Paul has the power to distribute it...which would be false...He does not have the power to distribute it but the Holy spirit does...

- **Also, why would he say “some spiritual gift” rather than “my spiritual gift”?**...It seems best here that Paul's intended meaning... a “spiritual blessing...” So perhaps the best understanding of verse 11 is... *“For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual blessing to you, that you may be established;”* Now.....If you wish to have a rich debate, I will be in the hallway following the service and we can “Agree to Disagree” and remain unified...

But notice something else that very interesting...Notice the result of this spiritual blessing... Look again at verse 11, *“That you may be established...”* The word established is “strengthened”...(Add Greek Parsing)...Paul desires to come to give them a spiritual blessing that will Strengthen their faith in an increasingly hostile world...

Transition: But then notice the **second reason** Paul wishes to visit the church in Rome found in verse 12...

Read Verse 12, *“That is, that **I may also** be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the others faith...Both yours and mine”*

Paul seeks to visit the church in Rome...to strength them and to then Be Personally Strengthened...So, Paul seeks to “establish” or strengthen them and then as a result to have His own faith strengthened...

Transition: Friends, let’s take a time out...Allow me to pause here for just a second and dig a little deeper into our Christian life...

Practically:

Why do you come to church? I mean, really? Is it just because you are supposed too? Or, Is it to just look at this pretty face? Is it to hear a Biblical grounded message?

Why should you come to church? Because as I see it here...One of the reasons Paul wishes to come to the Church in Rome is to **first strengthen their faith...**

Friends, When we come to church...Is our purpose to strengthen others? Or, is it to consume? Is our purpose in coming to church to strengthen and encourage others or to be self-centered and “get what I want”...

Friends, as I see it here...One way to be strengthened in your own faith is when you come to church to strengthen others in *their* faith....Only when each of us come to church not to consume but to strengthen others...Then and only then will our faith then be strengthened...

Friends, one of the greatest mistakes of the modern church is to focus on consumerism...To make church about the “self-centered experience...” I’ve even heard a large church say, “Ya know worship is really about you...It is about making you feel good...That God is glorified when you feel good...” WAAAAAAAY off...

We gather together here today...to worship God and strengthen others...You, you, you, you and you are here to strengthen the faith of the person right beside you...You should not be here

for yourself... You are here for others... Then and only then will your faith be strengthened...

Transition: So, Paul desires to come to Rome to Strengthen their faith, then in turn to have his faith strengthened and then we **find Paul's third reason** for a visit in verses 13-15...

Read verses 13-15, *"I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles. 14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. 15 So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome."*

In verse 13, Reason #3 for Paul desire to come to Rome is to: To obtain Fruit... Reason #3: to Obtain Fruit... Paul wishes to come to Rome to obtain the fruit of souls from Preaching the Gospel to all those in Rome...

But I have a question.....What is compelling Paul's shamelessness for the Gospel? What is compelling the church of Rome to be shameless for the Gospel? Notice with me verse 14... Because in it reveals to us the very item that is compelling their shamelessness...

Paul says... *"I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish."*

Paul's shamelessness is fueled by his obligation... Paul is under "Obligation"... The English term "obligation" does not quite do the Greek word here justice... The Greek term for "obligation" here is actually used only 7 times in the NT... And the Greek word literally means "debt"

That Paul is in "debt" to preach the Gospel... Because Paul has been saved from His own debt of sin... Paul then feels the debt of the Gospel for unsaved souls compelling him to proclaim the Gospel shamelessly...

Paul lives Shamelessly for the Gospel due to your debt to others...

How do we live shameless lives for the Gospel? Point #1: Live Shamelessly for the Gospel by realizing your debt to others...

Transition: It seems that Paul wakes up every morning with the weight of souls resting upon his heart...

Personal Story:

To put Paul's feeling or weight of obligation in perspective... To illustrate the weight of Paul's obligation... Think back to a time you felt a huge burden or a huge task..... I mean you felt a massive task to be completed...

I imagine some of us can think back to a time in high school or college that we felt a huge obligation load... Perhaps it was a research paper, or presentation, or a college or work project...

And as the deadline approached, what was your feeling? There was probably a sense of anxiety... A sense of heaviness... of stress, of obligation... The burden to accomplish the task grows and grows...

As the deadline approaches, what is your mind, body and schedule like until you complete it? You think about it all the time..... You wake up and think about that research paper... you lay down in bed at night thinking about that presentation, you seek out opportunities to understand it, to plan it, to complete it, You probably incessantly talk about the project to a spouse or friends,

Your mind, body, your being cannot rest until it is past you...

That uneasy feeling is how I imagine Paul feels in verse 14... The burden of proclaiming the Gospel is a debt he constantly feels... It consumes him, it fuels him, it compels him, it shapes him... Preaching the Gospel to Greek to Barbarian, to wise and foolish is a constant debt that He never satisfies...

Point #1: Paul lives Shamelessly for the Gospel due to your debt to others...

Transition: But what else compels his shamelessness for the Gospel? Notice with me the second reason found in verses 16-17...

Read verses 16-17, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ^b“But the righteous man shall live by faith.”*

Notice here Paul does something wonderfully exegetically brilliant... These verses are magnificent... Notice that the two verses 16 & 17 are actually four subordinate clauses with each clause explaining the clause before.... (Slide)

Notice... *“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel...” Why? “For it is the power of God for Salvation to EVERYONE that believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek...”*

Why is Paul shameless for the Gospel? Because the Gospel is the very POWER of God...

Point #2: Live Shamelessly for the Gospel by Realizing The Gospel is the very Power of God...

Wait, Think about this...Let this sink in...The Gospel is the very POWER OF GOD...When you believe in the Gospel you are trusting in the very POWER OF God....For What? *“For it is the power of God for Salvation”* for salvation...Salvation here literally means “rescue”....To rescue you from the penalty of your sin...And who does it rescue?

To rescue who? *“For it is the power of God for Salvation to Everyone (any one on the face of the earth...) who believes...”* The very power of God to provide salvation from our sin is given to EVERYONE...So in other words, the Gospel is not exclusive...The Gospel is for everyone...The Gospel is not just for the elite or for the “good” person...The Gospel is not meant for the good but for the bad...Not meant for the “perfect” but meant for sinners...

Because after all...There are none that are righteous not even one...There is no one alive that that is good because God’s idea of good is perfection...And since none of us are perfect, God sent His Son Jesus Christ to pay for my sin and HE FREELY GIVES Salvation...Salvation meaning...The RESCUING from our eternal penalty of sin to EVERYONE who believes...

Transition: But now notice the third subordinate clause... Read verses 16-17, “#1: For I am not ashamed of the gospel, Why? #2: for it (The Gospel) is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. And then look at verse 17...Notice the Third Subordinate clause...

Why does it have the power to save?

Verse 17 #3: For in it (The Gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; *(Have a slide that separates out all four subordinate clauses...)*

Notice the third subordinate clause explains the second one...Why can the Gospel save? Because the Gospel contains the righteousness of God...

Now, we must pause here...We must take a step back and ask a very important exegetical question...What is the “righteousness of God”?

This specific phrase can actually mean two things:

#1: It can refer to an attribute of God: That God is righteous...Although it is true that God is righteous...When you plug the attribute of God that he is righteous it does not correlate well...So perhaps a...**The Better interpretation for the Righteousness of God...is that it**

#2: Refers to “the status of righteousness given by God...” Martin Luther in his struggle to understand this very verse states the correct view of this phrase when he says... *“The righteousness of God here is not the righteousness by which He is righteous in Himself, but rather the righteousness by which WE are made righteous by God”*

In other words, the reason we can be saved from verse 16 is because the Gospel in and of itself is the very instrument by which we can be declared righteous or guiltless before God...(Repeat)

Transition: But finally notice the fourth subordinate clause in verse 17... *“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ^bBut the righteous man shall live by faith.”*

The fourth subordinate clause is explaining what? How the righteousness of God was revealed...

It was revealed From faith to faith... From Old Testament Faith, to New Testament faith, to today... Notice something different about the end of verse 17... It is all caps... What does the all caps tell you? It is an Old Testament Quotation from Habbakkuk 2:4...

What is the all caps verse plus the “faith to faith” reference telling me? It is telling me that the Gospel message... Hasn't changed from the Old Testament to the New Testament... Its been *clarified* with Christ but not changed... The Gospel has been the same in the Old Testament and in the New Testament... **That man is justified through Christ's payment received by faith then and now... Genesis 15:6...** **“And Abraham believed in God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness...”**

But notice something else very interesting about the all caps phrase... It does not just reveal the righteousness of God... But it also Does What? It gives us instructions on life after salvation...

“But the righteous man shall LIVE by faith...” Friends, We have the Gospel wrong... We think the Gospel is only the Power of God to save me...

Wait...But Notice verse 17 again... The Gospel as I see it here in verse 17 does not just save me by faith but compels me to LIVE by faith... So I am saved by FAITH and NOW Because I am saved by faith I MUST THEN LIVE BY FAITH...

A Christian is saved by faith and lives by faith... (Repeat) Oh friends the Gospel compels us to Live Shameless lives for the Gospel... It compels us to live our Christian life by faith... To trust the Lord to guide me and show me His direction...

So my two points found from verses 8-17 is to Live Shamelessly for the Gospel

Point #1: Live Shamelessly for the Gospel due to your debt to others...

Point #2: Live Shamelessly for the Gospel by Realizing The Gospel is the very Power of God...

Transition: As I head toward closing, I'd like to answer the question...How do I live shamelessly for the Gospel? So, as I head toward closing I'd like to give us three points of application to help us take Romans 1:8-17 and apply it to our lives...

YOU:

How do I live shamelessly for the Gospel?

Step #1: Remember Your Debt... Friends, let me be clear...We are NOT under debt to God...Romans 8:1, "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus..."

We are in debt to non-believers... Similarly to Paul, we are under obligation...also...Every morning we should wake up and feel the pressure...Feel the weight of the upcoming never ending task of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all those we see...

Story:

As some of you may know, I began a PhD program through Mid America Baptist Seminary...What was interesting about this school is their obligation or burden to reach the lost...Because as part of their requirement to be a student there...You must share the Gospel with at least one person each week...It doesn't matter if you are taking only English classes or even if you are a professor there...You must obligatory share the Gospel...

Friends remember your debt to non-believers...

Step #2: Realize God's Power: Why was Paul not ashamed? Because the Gospel is the Power of God to Save...Friends, oftentimes we think the Gospel is a simple prayer...Wrong...The Gospel is the very power of God to save to all those who believe...An appreciation and understanding of the Gospel gives us incentive to share it...

Step #3: Relive Day after Day by Faith...In order to share boldly and shamelessly, We must live each day by faith...But the righteous person shall live by faith...

WE: