

Sermon Title: The Fearlessness of the Gospel

Sermon Text: Romans 1:16-17

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to trust in the power of the Gospel to transform lives.

Sermon Proposition: There are 4 principles that prevent fearlessness of proclaiming the Gospel in the face of opposition.

Introduction:

The overall theme of Romans: The two verse theme is the basic (**Romans 1:16-17**) text of Romans because it combines the three crucial concepts of salvation, righteousness, and faith.

In Chapter 8:1-17 Paul looks at the work of the Holy Spirit who indwells and empowers every believer.

The great missionary to the Gentiles proclaimed the gospel to all classes of people while in Rome, especially to Greek-speaking easterners (called “Greeks” in Romans 1:16) and Jews.

Paul in this text is limiting his thoughts to those central truths by which a person is given eternal life. For Paul, his gospel included such matters as justification by faith (**1:18-5**), sanctification through the Spirit (**6-8**), God’s future for Israel (**9-11**) and practical living for the righteous before man (**12-16**).

In fact the gospel gathers together all the truths that are found in Romans. Therefore, we can conclude that in Romans 1:16-17, Paul is expressing, exhorting, and explaining his confidence that the truth of justification, sanctification and even glorification is provided by God’s power to deliver us from enslavement and bondage to sin.

I. The fearlessness of the Gospel endures because of God’s provision. V.16a

A. There is no fear because there is no shame.

- 1) Paul has been imprisoned in Philippi (**Acts 16:23** *And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.*),
 - 2) chased out of Thessalonica (**Acts 17:10** *Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.*),
 - 3) smuggled out of Berea (**Acts 17:14** *Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there.*),
 - 4) laughed and mocked at in Athens (**Acts 17:32** *And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter."*),
 - 5) regarded as a fool in Corinth (**1 Corinthians 1:18** *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. . . .23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks¹ foolishness.*),
 - 6) and stoned in Galatia (**Acts 14:19** *Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.*),
- but Paul remained eager to preach the gospel in Rome and all nations – the seat of contemporary political power and pagan religion. Neither ridicule, criticism, nor physical persecution could curb his boldness.

II. The fearlessness of the Gospel endures because of God’s power. V.16b

The English word “dynamite” comes from the Greek word. Although the message may sound foolish to some (**1 Cor. 1:18**), the gospel is effective because it carries with it the omnipotence of God (**cf Ex 15:6; Rom 9:21**)

Deuteronomy 32:39 `Now see that I, *even I, am He*, And *there is no God besides Me*; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor *is there any* who can deliver from My hand.

Job 9:4 God *is wise in heart and mighty in strength*. Who has hardened *himself* against Him and prospered?

Psalms 33:8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. **9** For He spoke, and it was *done*; He commanded, and it stood fast.

Psalms 89:13 You have a mighty arm; Strong is Your hand, *and high is Your right hand*.

Psalm 106:8 Nevertheless He saved them for His name's sake, That He might make His mighty power known. **9** He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it dried up; So He led them through the depths, As through the wilderness.

Isaiah 26:4 Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength¹.

Isaiah 43:13 Indeed before the day *was*, I *am* He; And *there is* no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?"

Jeremiah 10:12 He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.

Jeremiah 27:5 `I have made the earth, the man and the beast that *are* on the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and have given it to whom it seemed proper to Me.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Only God's power is able to overcome man's sinful nature and give him new life. (**Rom 5:6; 8:3; 1 Cor 1:18-23, 25; 2:1-4; 4:20**)

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

1 Peter 1:23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever¹,

The power of God to salvation, the phrase or term salvation is used 5 times in Romans (the verb form is used 8 times) the word basically means "deliverance" or "rescue." The power of God, through the gospel of Christ delivers or rescues people from their lostness, death, and judgment, but also the power of sin and its ability to rule over them. The power of the gospel delivers and rescues people, from the wrath of God (**Rom 5:9**),

A) from willful spiritual ignorance (**Hosea 4:6** *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. **2 Thessalonians 1:8** *in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.*)*

B) from evil self-indulgence (**Luke 14:26** *"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.*)

C) and from the darkness of false religion (**Colossians 1:13** *He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, **1 Peter 2:9** *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*)*

D) It rescues them from the ultimate penalty of their sin is eternal separation from God and eternal punishment.

III. The fearlessness of the Gospel endures because of God's prerequisite. V.16c

This provision, this power is available to everyone who believes. To believe is to trust, rely on, or to have faith in (confidence). When used in the context of salvation, this word usually occurs in the present tense meaning ("is believing") which stresses that faith is not a simple one-time event, but an ongoing condition. Genuine faith will always produce authentic obedience.

IV. The fearlessness of the Gospel endures because of God's present. V.17

The term is better translated "righteousness from God." Righteousness or justify is used (30 times) it refers to a state or condition of perfectly conforming to God's perfect law and holy character.

The Gospel reveals that on the basis of faith and faith alone God will impute/credit, give His righteousness to ungodly sinners. Because of these four principles the central theme is: no matter what Satan does, or brings, saving faith and living faith cannot be destroyed.

Genesis 15:6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Acts 13:39 "and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Romans 4:23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, **24** but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Galatians 3:24 Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.