

## WHY I'M NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

April 2, 2017 • Pastor Netz Gómez

**Romans 1:16** *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..."*

The message of the gospel is that we were lost, and God the Father, in His great love, sent Jesus, His only begotten Son, to die for our sins to save us from eternal death (**John 3:16**). This message is simple but backed up by the power of God Himself.

### I. THE GOSPEL IS POWER...

- **Because its truth confronts us with our true condition and that is what we need, to know what our condition really is in order to receive the salvation of God.**

**Romans 3:23** *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

**Romans 3:10-18** *"...There is not a single righteous ... **12** All have turned away, **13** What they speak is repugnant, ... Their tongue is full of lies. **14** ... full of ... bitterness. **18** ... They have no fear of God at all."*

Unfortunately too many people think that they are basically good and that if something is wrong with their life is because they were born that way or is the fault of their parents or society but Jesus is the Faithful Witness and He, with His love and truth reveals who we are not to condemn us but to save us. The gospel leads us to take responsibility for our actions.

- **Because it exposes us to the reality of God's love that fills us and gives us meaning.**

**John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world..."*

The love of God revealed in the gospel has power to free our lives from rejection, hurt, insecurity and fear. It puts us in the best position to live a life in victory.

**1 John an 4:10** *"And this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation [forgiveness] for our sins."*

**1 John 4:18** *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment..."*

- **Because when we believe in the gospel and repent of our sins we receive God's forgiveness which frees us from the past and from eternal perdition.**

**2 Corinthians 5:17** *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*

**1 John 2:12** *"I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake."*

One of the things that weighs most on the heart of the human being is the remorse for the sins that have been committed. A troubled conscience and guilt

are a difficult torment to tolerate but God in His mercy and by the work of Christ frees us from the burden of condemnation and depression.

In addition to this, all sin that has not been blotted out by the blood of Christ will be the evidence in the day when God will judge those who did not believe or repent. The forgiveness that Christ bought frees us now and will deliver us from the final judgment.

- **Because it is for 'all' this means that the Lord includes everyone; There is no person beyond the gospel.**

**Acts 2:21** *"And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

There is no person on this earth who is at a point where the gospel cannot reach him and save him. No matter how "good" or bad a person is, all who believe and repent have access to salvation and an eternal relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- **Because it is backed by God Himself. Transforms lives; Makes a drug addict a good man; an anxious woman to one that is full of peace; turns a pervert to a man who seeks holiness; etc.**

**Mark 16:17** *"And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues."*

**1 Thessalonians 1:5** *"because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction."*

## II. THAT'S WHY I'M NOT ASHAMED...

- **Although I find mockery or pressure I remain firm**

**2 Timothy 1:7-8** *"7 For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God."*

It is true that many people who will not want to receive the gospel but many others have already realized that there is no real hope outside of Christ.

- **Although we do not have all the answers anyway, the gospel is still in place and full of power**

**Hebrews 11:13** *"These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth."*

There will be questions for which we may not have an answer or situations in our own lives that are not yet resolved but none of that changes the power that the gospel has to do its work of salvation and regeneration.

- **Although there are still many things that have to change in me, I am not ashamed of the gospel.**

**Philippians 3:11-13a** *"that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Straining Toward the Goal 12 Not that I have already obtained this or*

**am already perfect, but I press** on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. *13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own...*"

It is true that our lives are in a mature process, but that does not diminish the effectiveness of the gospel to do its powerful work.

- **I am not ashamed of Him because He is not ashamed of me.**

**Hebrews 11:16** *"But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. **Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God**, for he has prepared for them a city."*

In spite of all my imperfections and weakness my God is not ashamed to call himself my God and I will never be ashamed of the gospel, although at times it seems most absurd.

**Hebrews 10:32-33** *"But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, **you endured a great conflict of sufferings, 33 partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations**, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated."*

- **I am not ashamed because I do not want Him to be ashamed of me at the last day.**

**Mark 8:38** *"**For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.**"*

It may sometimes be very difficult to hold our convictions in situations of pressure and we have even failed but we will continue to confess our faith because we do not want Him to be ashamed of us at His coming.

### III. IF YOU FEEL WEAK OR INCAPABLE...

- **Be filled with the Holy Spirit...**

**Acts 1:8** *" **but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."*

- **Only tell what the Lord has done with you (You are a witness of what God has done in you)...**

**Mark 5:19** *"Jesus said to him, **"Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."***

- **God did not call you to convert them but to testify**

**1 Corinthians 3:5b-7** *"Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. **6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.** 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth."*

### IV. TAKE THE INITIATIVE

- **We have His support**

**Matthew 28:18-20a** " And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19 Go therefore and make disciples...** **20 ...** And behold, ***I am with you always***, to the end of the age"

- **If you do not go they can not believe**

**Romans 10:14-15** "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? ***And how are they to believe*** in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear ***without someone preaching?*** **15** And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

## V. EVANGELISM WITH A SINGLE VERSE



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Practice among Friendship Group members how to present the gospel based on this verse.
2. What is the biggest obstacle you have to preach the gospel and how are you going to overcome it?
3. Set the goal of evangelizing a person this week and pray for them over the next few days.