

# I Am Not Ashamed

## Introduction

Bob Woods tells the story of a couple who took their son, 11, and daughter, 7, to Carlsbad Caverns. As always, when the tour reached the deepest point in the cavern, the guide turned off all the lights to dramatize how completely dark and silent it is below the earth's surface. The little girl, suddenly enveloped in utter darkness, was frightened and began to cry. Immediately was heard the voice of her brother: "Don't cry. Somebody here knows how to turn on the lights." In a real sense, that is the message of the gospel: light is available, even when darkness seems overwhelming.

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (17) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

1. In these words the apostle Paul makes a brave confession - that he is NOT ashamed of the gospel.
  - A. When we read the story of his great life, we know that he is telling the truth.
2. In the lesson this morning, this beloved apostles tells us why.

## I Am Not Ashamed

1. It is a power.
  - A. Not an impotent thing, but a dynamic thing.
  - B. Not material or muscular, but mental, moral and spiritual in nature.

**2. It is the power of God.**

- A. Satan has a power, or an influence.**
- B. The world has a power – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life.**

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

- C. The gospel is divine power – God’s almighty influence which works in the heart of man.**

**3. It is the power of God unto salvation.**

- A. Many powers are destructive in nature – the flood, the storm, the earthquake, evil literature, falsehood, and on and on.**
- B. But the gospel is the saving power – it saves man from the most deadly enemy – SIN!**
  - 1) From the power of sin.**
  - 2) From the practice of sin.**
  - 3) From the pollution of sin.**
  - 4) From the guilt of sin.**
  - 5) From the fearful wages of sin.**

**Romans 6:23**

4. **It is the power of God to save without partiality.**

A. **To EVERYONE**

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.

B. **This blessed fact commends the gospel to the hearts of man.**

5. **It is the power of God unto salvation on the simplest terms.**

A. **To everyone that believes.**

B. **Saving belief (or faith) is not a lifeless thing, but a living principle.**

Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

James 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

6. **It is a revealing power.**

A. **For in it the righteousness of God is revealed.**

1) **God’s character – His goodness, justice, mercy, wisdom, will – all revealed in the gospel.**

B. **The gospel brings God very near to us.**

**Matthew 1:23**

**John 14:8-9**

## Conclusion

- 1. Having been saved by the gospel, we should not be ashamed of it.**
- 2. We should not be ashamed to declare it, to defend it, to manifest its power in our daily lives.**
- 3. The person who is ashamed of Christ (or His gospel), of him Christ will be ashamed when He comes back.**

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

- 4. Jesus said for us as Christians, to keep pressing on, not looking back.**

Luke 9:62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.“

