

Rooted - Jan 24th - The Sufficiency of the Gospel - Troy Knight

Key Scriptures:

Colossians 1:3-8

Colossians 4:12-13

Romans 1:16

TALK IT OVER

Start reading

Colossians 1:3-8

3 We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **4** For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, **5** which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News. **6** This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace. **7** You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. **8** He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.

Colossians 4:12-13

12 Epaphras, a member of your own fellowship and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. He always prays earnestly for you, asking God to make you strong and perfect, fully confident that you are following the whole will of God. **13** I can assure you that he prays hard for you and also for the believers in Laodicea and Hierapolis.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Look at the table of contents in your Bible. What's your favorite book of the Bible? What book are you planning to read next and why?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Colossians 1:7-8 and 4:12-13. Who is Epaphras? If Epaphras had been silent with the Gospel, what would be missing from the world today
- When you hear the word Gospel, what do you think? Pastor Troy said tolerance and self-sufficiency tend to be enemies of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Have you ever seen this in your life or relationships?
- Read Colossians 1:3-5. If you've embraced the Gospel, in what ways did you experience the love of God and the hope of eternity?
- Read Colossians 1:6-8. One of the core values of GC is "It's not about me, it's about those who aren't even here yet." What does that mean to you? Is that something you embrace? How do we balance the spiritual growth of Christians with the desire to make Sunday morning about those who are not yet converted? Are those mutually exclusive missions?
- Read Romans 1:16. Can anyone say the verse from memory? What happens when we fearlessly share the Gospel?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Pastor Troy said, "Make a decision to die to your needs so others can find life." Where would you place yourself: you have died to your needs, are dying to your needs, or are living for your needs? Explain.
- Talk about something you learned during this message. The Bible is alive and no matter how often we read it or hear someone talk about it, God is revealing things to us as He wants us to know them. What was your takeaway?
- What GOOD NEWS do you have to share with your group today? There are people in your small group at all levels of spiritual maturity. What has God placed upon your heart and in your mind to share with them?
- Have you ever shared the Gospel message with someone? What was their reaction? What did this experience do for you?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Troy challenged us in the message with 2 action items. Commit to doing these this week.
 - 1) Memorize Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.
 - 2) Step out in faith and invite someone to GC.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- The Gospel is life-changing. If you are a follower of Jesus, we cannot keep this message to ourselves. Pray and ask God to give you the courage to share the Gospel with someone in your neighborhood, family, work, school, or whomever God places on your heart.

Start digging. For further study.

- Read the 2nd page and discuss it.

Question: "What does it mean to not be ashamed of the Gospel (Romans 1:16)?"

Answer: In Romans 1, Paul addresses the Gentile believers at Rome and begins by explaining his mission, which was to preach the gospel to everyone. He concludes his explanation by saying, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith'" (Romans 1:16–17; cf. Habakkuk 2:4).

The word translated "ashamed" means "disgraced" or "personally humiliated." A person "ashamed" in this way is like someone singled out for misplacing his confidence—he trusted in something, and that something let him down. The word can refer to being dishonored because of forming the wrong alliances. So, when Paul says that he is not ashamed of the gospel, he is saying his confidence in the gospel is not misplaced. There is no disgrace in declaring it. Paul had given his life to proclaiming the truths that Jesus Himself had revealed to him (Acts 9:3–6; 2 Corinthians 12:2–4). He explained to the Romans why he did not believe that he had wrongly identified with Jesus and why proclaiming Jesus' message was his life's work.

The application can extend to us as well. Just as Paul placed his confidence in the gospel of Christ, so can we. We can proclaim with boldness the truths that God has revealed in His Word, with no fear that our confidence is misplaced. "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame" (Romans 10:11; cf. Isaiah 28:16). We can rest in the knowledge that the Holy Spirit who inspired the writing of Scripture never changes (2 Peter 1:21; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8). What was true thousands of years ago is still true. The offer of salvation that was presented to people of the first century is still open to us (Acts 2:39; John 17:20).

To live unashamed of the gospel means we proclaim it, but it also means we apply it to our lives and show we believe it. Paul's life choices supported his message. He did not preach one thing and live another. We are "ashamed of the gospel" when we allow sin in our lives to go unchecked (Matthew 3:8). When we indulge in worldliness and carnal desires or blatantly disobey scriptural standards, we indicate that we lack confidence in our own message (1 Corinthians 3:3; 1 Peter 2:11). When we "walk in the counsel of the ungodly, stand in the path of sinners, and sit in the seat of scoffers" (Psalm 1:1), we are being ashamed of the gospel. We are not allowing its truth to penetrate our lives so that others see its changing power. To live unashamed of the gospel means that we, like Paul, allow it to dominate our lives to the extent that everyone within our sphere of influence can see that we have "been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13).