**Lesson 2: Don’t Be Ashamed of the Gospel!**

Text: Romans 1:8-17

**Introduction**

The declaration of a transformed life is a powerful declaration to those lost in sin. The goal of this lesson is to bolster your confidence in the gospel to accomplish God’s work in evangelizing the lost. As Paul prepared to enter the powerful city of Rome, he was not hesitant to approach it with the same strategy that he had in every other city: Preach the gospel! It will still work today. God’s plan for reaching the masses is the faithful proclamation of the gospel message. It will work in every big city and small country town.

1. **Paul was eager to assemble with the believers in Rome for the purpose of edification. (v. 8-12)**
   1. He expressed thanksgiving for their Christian testimony. (v. 8) Their faith was *spoken of* or proclaimed throughout the Roman Empire. Some are known for their work, hobbies, and skills. While all of these have a place, shouldn’t a believer be known first of all for their faith in Christ?
   2. He prayed regularly for the believers in Rome and trusted the Lord to bring him safely to Rome. (v. 9-10) Could God testify that you pray regularly for other believers?
   3. There is mutual encouragement that comes from fellowshipping in the Lord. (v. 11-12)
      1. He wanted to *impart* (share, give) a spiritual gift. The nature of the gift is not described. It may have been in the form of teaching. The purpose of transferring the gift is that they might be strengthened.
      2. The Lord uses believers to impart spiritual help to other believers. Never underestimate how God might use a conversation with another believer. Don’t overlook how God might speak to your heart during a Sunday school lesson or Bible message. This illustrates why it is important to be in your place each week. You must be present to receive what God wants to impart to you.
      3. Their faith would be a comfort to Paul. (v. 12) Others need the ministry that God wants to do through you.
   4. Paul greatly desired to visit with the believers in Rome. Evaluate your desire to fellowship with other believers. There should be an eagerness when it comes to gathering with the saints!
2. **Paul was eager to come to Rome for the purpose of evangelism. (v. 13-17)**
   1. Paul was hindered in previous plans, but wanted to come to Rome that he might have fruit there as he did in other regions. (v. 13)
   2. Paul viewed himself as a debtor. (v. 14)
      1. A debtor is one who is under obligation. The term is used of those who are under financial obligation. Here it is used of spiritual obligation. Paul was obligated to deliver the gospel.
      2. If you work for a local delivery company, you are obligated to deliver the packages that have been entrusted to your care. You cannot rightfully keep the packages for yourself. You cannot wait for a convenient time to fulfill your obligation. You must deliver the packages regardless of your feelings.
      3. If you are saved, you are obligated to transfer the gospel to others. You owe it to others to tell them what you know.
      4. Paul said he was a debtor to the Greeks and Barbarians. This means he was obligated to pass on the gospel message to those who were cultured and to those who were less refined.
   3. He was eager to preach the gospel to those in Rome. (v. 15)
   4. The size and reputation of the city did not discourage Paul’s evangelistic zeal. (v. 16)
      1. Paul did not allow popular opinion and religious oppression to keep him from delivering the message because he believed in the power of the gospel.
      2. The word *power* is the word from which we derive the word *dynamite*! The gospel is supernatural. It has power to move hearts!
      3. Do you have confidence in the power of the gospel? Paul did not plan to go to Rome with a strategy to win the Romans with a philosophical message delivered in the power of his eloquence. He planned to proclaim the message and let it do the work in the hearts of the lost.
   5. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation because it declares the righteousness of God. (v. 17)
      1. The gospel reveals God’s righteousness.
      2. The gospel reveals the way a sinner can receive God’s righteousness. It is only by faith!
3. **Central Idea: Paul was eager to take the gospel to Rome because he was confident in the power of the gospel.**
4. **Application: We should eagerly take the gospel to those in our city because we can be confident in the power of the gospel.** 
   1. Evaluate the way you view church attendance. Do you come to receive what God wants to give you? Do you come prepared to encourage others? Do you look forward to our times of assembling together?
   2. Evaluate your evangelistic efforts. Most lost people are on their way to a Christless eternity in hell not because they have rejected the message of the gospel, but because they have not heard it. When was the last time that you personally shared your faith with someone who needed to hear the gospel? Does your Christianity extend beyond the walls of the church?
   3. Evaluate your confidence in the gospel. Are you hesitant to share the gospel because you doubt its power? Do you hesitate to share the gospel with those who present themselves as intellectual? Do you believe the gospel can change everyone who believes it? Are you ashamed of the gospel?

**Conclusion**

The greatest hope for our city is in the power of the gospel. We can take the gospel to our “Rome” if we will trust its power to make a difference. A proper estimation of the gospel produces an eagerness to evangelize.