

“The Beautifully Offensive Gospel”
Romans 1:16-17

The offense of the Gospel: “I am not ashamed!

- The Gospel is offensive because it proclaims that Jesus is infinitely more valuable than any other relationship or commitment (Matthew 8:18-22; Luke 14:25-27 & 33).
- The Gospel is offensive because we don’t contribute to it at all. It is only because of what He has done that we can be saved (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:10-11).
- The Gospel is offensive because it demands that God be seen as supremely exceptional and trustworthy, obedience is not optional (Romans 10:9; John 14:15; 1 John 5:1-3).
- The Gospel is offensive because it exposes man’s wickedness. It exposes that man is proud, arrogant, and loves sinning (John 3:16-21).
- The gospel is offensive because it demands sacrifice, suffering, and at times even our lives (2 Corinthians 11:23-29; Philippians 1:21-26; Romans 8:17).

“An inoffensive gospel is also an inoperative gospel.” (Geoffrey Wilson)

The Gospel is the power of God:

- The Gospel is not the power to “feel better”, it is the power to be transformed (Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:16-19; 2 Corinthians 7:1).
- The Gospel is the power to forgive sins and to put our sin to death (Ephesians 1:7; Romans 8:12-13; 1 John 1:8-10).
- The Gospel’s power is not found in us, it is found in God (1 Corinthians 2:1-5 & 4:20).

The Gospel shows us God’s righteousness and gives us Christ’s righteousness:

- God is Holy, God hates sin, and God’s wrath is on all those outside of Christ. We are not Holy, we love sin, and we want to hide from God not run to Him (John 3:36; Romans 5:9-11; 1 Peter 1:16-17; Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 5:48).
- Our only hope of salvation is having Christ’s righteousness placed on our lives (2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:22-24; Romans 5:17).

The Gospel gives us power to believe and continue to believe:

- God gives us the ability to have faith in the work of Christ by the preaching of His Word (Romans 10:17) and gives us the ability for an enduring faith by the Holy Spirit, encouragement, and His Word (Philippians 1:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; Hebrews 3:12-14; 1 John 2:19).