

Live by Faith; Romans 1:16-17

I. Live

A. How do you “live by faith?”

1. God tells us both here and in Habakkuk 2:4 that those who are righteous (right with God) live by faith
2. This must be an important concept to span two different time periods, both the Mosaic and Christian dispensations

B. Paul gives us the answers in this text

1. The Gospel is the Power of God
2. The Gospel reveals God and His righteousness
3. Those who are right with God live by faith (in the Gospel)

II. Power

A. Don't be ashamed

1. In our world today there are many people who want us to be ashamed of the Gospel
2. They tell us that we must be narrow minded, bigoted, hateful, judgmental if we follow the Gospel
3. But we shifted our mindset when we became a Christian
4. We chose God and His salvation over the world and its entrapments
5. Jesus has some pretty scary things to say about those who are ashamed of him
6. Mark 8:38 (ESV); For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”
7. Ashamed — to be embarrassed or humiliated by your association with someone (Jesus)
8. “to experience a painful feeling or sense of loss of status because of some particular event or activity, be ashamed”¹
9. To be ashamed of the Gospel is to be ashamed of the power of God

B. The Gospel is power

1. Salvation is found in Jesus' sacrifice and nothing else
2. The Gospel leads us to Jesus' blood
3. It shows us who Jesus is, why His sacrifice was required, how to respond to that sacrifice, and how to live a Christ centered life — now that is power!
4. The Gospel is “(1) facts to be believed; (2) commandments to be obeyed; and (3) promises to be accepted.”²

C. Salvation to all

1. There is no prejudice in the Gospel
2. All who want to can respond
3. “Everyone” — the totality with focus on its individual components, each, every, any³
4. God's focus is on everyone but through **each one of us**

D. God's powerful Gospel was written so that each one of us would have an opportunity to accept the salvation He offers

III. Righteousness

¹ William Arndt et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 357.

² Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on Romans 1:16". "Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament". <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/romans-1.html>. Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

³ William Arndt et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 782.

- A. "The Mesopotamian term itself comes from a river reed which was used as a construction tool to judge the horizontal straightness of walls and fences. God chose the term to be used metaphorically of His own nature. He is the straight edge (ruler) by which all things are evaluated" ⁴
 - B. "Acting in accord with divine or moral law: free from guilt or sin" ⁵
 - C. If we are free from guilt or sin (Romans 8:1) then we are right with God, or righteous
 - D. "By nature we view righteousness as something we can achieve by our own meritorious action, the result of what we do. The righteousness of God is totally different. It is a right standing before God that has nothing to do with human merit." ⁶
 - E. We are righteous only because the blood of Jesus cleanses us
 - F. Romans 3:21–26 (ESV); ²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
- IV. Live By Faith
- A. Our lives must reflect our faith!
 - B. Hebrews 11:6 (ESV); And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
 - C. "Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6); and the statement here that the just shall live by faith is emphasis upon the fact of man's utter inability to live without it." ⁷
 - 1. Just open a paper, turn on a television, get to the internet and see what a world without faith is like
 - 2. Pornography is not only rampant but easy to get to (for all ages)
 - 3. There are TV shows that are one step away from pornography and they are the most popular shows
 - 4. People make excuses for their behavior with the end result of convincing themselves that evil is good and good is evil
 - D. Jesus wrote to the church in Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11) and told them that not even death should come in between you and God (much less TV, the internet, etc.)
 - 1. "I'm Not Ashamed" is a movie about young girl's journey of faith
 - 2. She attended Columbine High School and was murdered April 20, 1999 by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold
 - 3. In the film, just before she was murdered one of the murderers asked her "Do you still believe in God?" while he pointed a gun at her head.
 - 4. Her answer sealed her death — faithful unto (in the face of) death

⁴ Robert James Utley, The Gospel according to Paul: Romans, vol. Volume 5, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 1998), Ro 1:17.

⁵ Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

⁶ Robert H. Mounce, Romans, vol. 27, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 73.

⁷ Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on Romans 1:17". "Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament". <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/bcc/romans-1.html>. Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

5. Columbine has long been forgotten and April 20th is now a celebration for those in Colorado who smoke marijuana
- E. To live by faith...
1. Hebrews 11:1–2 (ESV); ¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation.
 2. Do not be ashamed to say what God says (no matter the outcome)
 3. Do not be ashamed to do what God says (no matter the outcome)
 4. Do not be ashamed to call God the creator and Jesus our Lord and Savior
- V. Live by Faith
- A. “To really hear the gospel is to experience the presence of God. The late evangelist Dwight L. Moody commented that the gospel is like a lion. All the preacher has to do is to open the door of the cage and get out of the way!” ⁸
 - B. The door has been opened!

⁸ Robert H. Mounce, *Romans*, vol. 27, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 70.