

# SERMON NOTES

Not Ashamed: Good News

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## Romans 1:7-17

### opening prayer

Encourage one another to share one word that describes how they are feeling about their faith right now, and pray into that to begin.

### ice breaker

Barring the gospel itself, what's the best piece of news you've ever received, and why did it matter so much?

### overview

- The gospel is good news, not good advice, announcing what Jesus has *done*, rather than what we must *do*.
- The gospel is not just the starting point of faith, but daily fuel for the life of a believer.
- Paul shared the gospel because of encouragement, obligation, and confidence.
- The grace that saves us is the grace that sustains us.

### three dimensions of righteousness

Discuss below. Righteousness is...

- **A divine attribute:** *WHO* God is.
- **A saving act:** *WHAT* He has done.
- **A status freely given to us:** *ALL* that He has bestowed on us.

## go deeper

As we begin our journey as a Church through the book of Romans, we are confronted with one foundational question: *What is the gospel?*

The Apostle Paul reminds us that the gospel is not merely good advice on how to live better, nor a moral framework or an insurance policy for eternity. The gospel is the announcement that through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, an occurrence in history changed everything.

Ps Andy shared boldly from **Rom 1:7-17**, where Paul's deep passion for this message is driven by three motivations: (1) a desire for mutual encouragement among believers, (2) a sense of obligation to share Christ with others, and (3) an unwavering confidence that the gospel is the power of God for salvation. It is transformational to grasp the truth that the righteousness of God is not something we earn.

We are reminded that the gospel is both the doorway into the Christian life and its sustainer. If the gospel has the power to transform the diverse, divided, and morally complex culture of first-century Rome, it remains the same life-changing power for our world today. May we not reduce the power of the gospel in our lives to something we once believed, but allow it to continually reshape the way we think, live, and relate to the world around us!

## discussion

- 1** Reflect on when you first heard the gospel; perhaps you understood it as good advice, a value system, an after-death plan, or genuinely good news. Share how your understanding has developed over time.
- 2** In **Rom 1:11–12**, Paul expected to be mutually encouraged by his fellow believers in the Roman church. Consider someone in our community who is at a significantly different stage in their faith journey from you. Discuss how you could take steps towards someone else, and the impacts of being mutually encouraged by one another's journeys.
- 3** Pastor Andy described Paul's sense of obligation to the unsaved, not as a *burden* but as a *debt*. Paul understood that he had received something from the Lord which was intended to be given to others. Be honest about what it is in life that holds you back from sharing the gospel with others.

## application

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### **Striving**

As a group, take time to identify one area of your life where you have been trying to earn the Lord's approval through your own efforts. Confess to one another and pray that this would be replaced by a deepened trust in the Lord.

### **Obligation**

Take a moment together to ask Holy Spirit to place on your heart the name of someone unsaved, to whom you could be *obliged* with the gospel. Name them, pray for them together and commit to praying for all the names as a group this week.

## closing prayer

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- Specific names of unsaved people in our lives.
- Revelation to boast in Christ's righteousness (**2 Cor 5:21**).
- Any prayer points across the group.