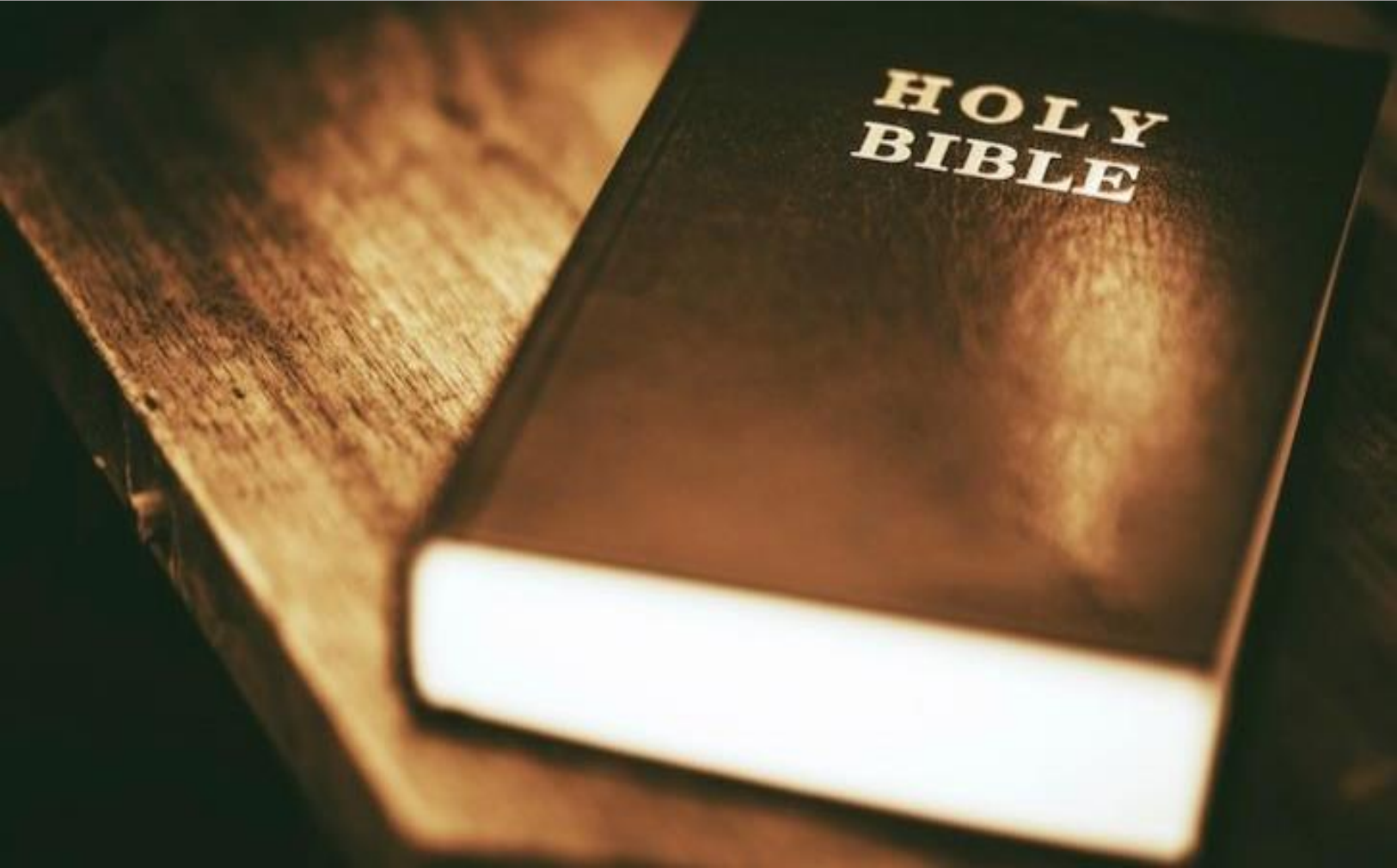


# Are You Ashamed Of The Gospel?



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

# Are You Ashamed Of The Gospel?

Learn to avoid these four ways you can be ashamed of the gospel

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## Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

**Study Number:** DGW9

Written by Eric Krieg

**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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# Are You Ashamed Of The Gospel?

In Romans 1:15-17, the apostle Paul said, “So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’”

The apostle Paul had already endured a great deal for Jesus Christ whenever he made this statement. During his life of service to the Lord, Paul was often persecuted for taking a bold stand for Jesus Christ and preaching His word. On one occasion, this persecution would even be so severe that he was stoned to the point people thought he was dead.

Yet, whenever he thought about preaching the gospel to the people in Rome, he longed for the opportunity. He said that he was “ready” to preach the gospel to those who were in Rome. The reason that he gave for being so ready is two-fold.

First, Paul said that he was not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Even though Paul had endured much in order to follow and preach the gospel, there was no sense of being ashamed of it. He would not stop preaching for anything or anyone. He was absolutely convinced that the gospel contains God’s words of truth and that he would be held responsible for preaching it to others.

Second, Paul recognized that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. Actually, this is why Paul endured so much for the sake of the gospel and preached it so boldly. He knew that it contained the message that people needed to hear in order to have their souls saved eternally!

You see, the gospel is the “good news” about man’s opportunity to be saved from his sin! The gospel of Jesus Christ begins with the message from God about the dangers of sinning against Him. It warns people that those who die in sin will spend eternity in the fires of Hell. Then, it tells us about the wonderful opportunity God has given for us to be saved from the consequences of our sins through Jesus Christ. It tells us about the love of God and of a Savior who left Heaven to come to earth, suffer at the hands of wicked men, be severely beaten, and die on a cross so that we could be forgiven of the sins we have committed. And, it tells us about what we are required to do in order to access the gift of eternal salvation in Heaven God has provided for us.

But, are you ashamed of the gospel? Chances are, if you are studying this lesson, you are at least somewhat interested in the gospel of Christ and following the ways of the Savior. So, your immediate answer may be, “No, I am not ashamed of the gospel!” But, as we will discuss through this study, there are far more who are ashamed of the gospel than we might initially imagine! For, you actually *are* ashamed of the gospel (1) *if* you are ashamed of the Lord, (2) *if* you will not stand for what is right, (3) *if* you will not let your light shine, and (4) *if* you do not teach the gospel.

## ***Yes...If You Are Ashamed Of The Lord***

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You are ashamed of the gospel *if* you are ashamed of the Lord. For, the gospel of Jesus Christ centers around the Lord Jesus! Although you may be quick to deny that you are ashamed of the Lord, you must consider what it actually means to confess Jesus

Christ. And, if you are not willing to confess Him, you are ashamed of His saving message!

## **The gospel centers around the Lord**

Without Jesus Christ, the gospel would be full of bad news. Without the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we would only know about the devastating effects of sin. We would only recognize that we have no hope beyond life on this earth. We would all be headed for eternal punishment in the fires of Hell!

Fortunately, the gospel does reveal the truth that Jesus Christ loved mankind enough to leave Heaven and come to earth. 2 Corinthians 8:9 says, “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.” Yes, Jesus Christ cared enough about you that He was willing to leave all the joy and beauty of Heaven to come to this world, where He would be: Mocked for being the Son of God, envied and hated by many, betrayed by one of His closest followers, sentenced to death while having committed no sin, beaten so severely that his body was left mangled, spat on, hung on a cross by nails through his hands and his feet, and die.

Yet, as 2 Corinthians 8:9 helps us understand, He did this for you (and for all sinners). Notice that He was rich (spiritually). He was in the place that we all long to go (Heaven). He did not need to come to earth and endure all of these things for His own sake! Instead, He did all of this so that those who were spiritually poor because of sin might be made spiritually rich and live in Heaven one day!

## **You must confess the Lord Jesus**

Now, when you hear this saving message of Jesus Christ, you must confess Him before men. Jesus says, “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32-33).

This confession of Jesus Christ is first required prior to being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins. It is given as a condition for your salvation (see Romans 10:9-10). For instance, just

prior to being baptized, the man of Ethiopia confessed, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:37). In making this public confession prior to baptism, you profess your faith and allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ!

But, you must recognize that your confession of faith and allegiance to Jesus Christ is not something that is only done one time. Instead, this confession must be continuous throughout your life – both in your words and actions. Hebrews 10:23 says, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” So, you must hold firmly to your confession of Jesus Christ (the source of your hope) and never waver from it!

Whenever you have opportunity to confess your allegiance to Jesus Christ, you must do so – rather than deny Him. For instance, although the apostle Peter had firmly said that he would not deny Jesus Christ (even if it meant dying for Him), when he was given the opportunity to confess Christ, Peter denied Him three times (see Matthew 26:69-75). Three times, he was given the opportunity to confess that He believed in Jesus as the Son of God and that He was a follower of Jesus. Yet, Peter (fearing the consequences of confessing Jesus), denied Him each time.

If you will confess Jesus Christ throughout your life on this earth (both in words and actions), Jesus will confess you before His Heavenly Father. However, if you deny Jesus Christ while you live on this earth (either in word or in action), Jesus will deny you before His Heavenly Father.

## **How you can deny the Lord**

The Scriptures teach that Jesus Christ is “not ashamed” to call those who believe and obey Him “brethren” (Hebrews 2:11). However, there are many people who call themselves Christ’s brethren (i.e. Christians) who are ashamed of Him! Consider some ways that you can deny the Lord and demonstrate that you are ashamed of both the Lord and the gospel.

(1) You can verbally deny Him. Like Peter, you can tell people that you do not believe in or know Jesus Christ whenever you are given the opportunity. Perhaps, you truly do not believe in Jesus. Or,

perhaps you only want to be a secret disciple of Jesus. So, your words are used to let others know that you do not believe in or follow Jesus Christ.

(2) You can be ashamed to wear the name “Christian.” To be a “Christian” is to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Acts 11:26 says, “the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” So, true Christians are claiming to be Christ-like by both believing what He has taught and trying to follow the example left by His life. Yet, some will deny that they are Christians either by their words (whenever they are asked or given the opportunity to confess that they are followers of Christ) or by their actions (whenever they are given the opportunity to show that they follow Christ).

(3) You can be ashamed to be a member of the church of Christ. Some who profess to be Christians do not want to claim to be members of the church of Christ. Instead, they have grown ashamed of Christ’s church. Yet, this is the only church that has been purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28; Matthew 16:18). Therefore, if you are ashamed of the one church (body) of Christ, you are also ashamed of Christ. Instead, those who are true followers of Christ should be willing to boldly confess that they are part of the church of Christ.

(4) You can be unwilling to suffer for the cause of Christ. Jesus Christ was willing to suffer for you so that you can be saved eternally. Now, He requires that you be willing to suffer for Him (see Luke 9:23-26). In fact, Jesus requires that you even be willing to confess Him if it results in dying for Him (see Revelation 2:10). You must be willing to suffer shame for His name, rather than being ashamed of Him and unwilling to suffer hardships and persecutions (see Acts 5:40-42). But, if you are not willing to endure these sufferings that will happen whenever you confess Jesus Christ, you will deny Him (either by your words or actions).

(5) You can choose not to obey Him. It is not enough just to claim allegiance to Jesus Christ. Instead, Jesus says that you must be obedient to Him. For, He says that there will be many people who have professed Him as “Lord,” but have not done the will of God. These, Jesus says, will be told to “depart” from Him (Matthew 7:21-23). So, whenever you are

given the opportunity to be obedient to the will of God and you choose to sin against Him, you are denying Him at that time – even though you may claim to follow Him!

## ***Yes...If You Will Not Stand For What Is Right***

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You are ashamed of the gospel *if* you will not stand for what is right. You see, when it comes to faith in Jesus Christ, your actions often speak louder than your words. So, although you may claim to be a follower of Jesus Christ, if you are not standing up for the same things that Jesus stood up for, you are actually denying Him and demonstrating that you are ashamed of the gospel.

### **The gospel requires you to stand against sin**

The message of the gospel identifies many things that are contrary to the will of God. In fact, God has revealed His law to us so that we can know what is contrary to His ways of righteousness and what is in harmony with the same. For instance, consider Romans 1:18-32.

Verse 18 states that “the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.” Verses 19-25 go on to discuss how some people deny the existence of God rather than worshiping and serving Him. Verses 26-27 then identifies the sin of homosexuality that some were involved in.

Then, listen to verses 28-32. “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of

God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

So, what are you to do about such wickedness as is identified in this passage (and others)? Romans 12:9 says that you must “Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.” You must have a hatred of everything that goes against the will of God – and a burning desire for the good things that God approves. Ephesians 5:11 says, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.” So, God does not permit you to be involved in anything that is evil – even just to a “small” degree. You must not profess or demonstrate any support of things that are contrary to the will of God!

### **Standing for what is right will not always be easy**

Although God is pleased with you whenever you stand up for what is right and stand against those things that are condemned by Him, it is not an easy thing to do. For, most people in this world are involved in wickedness of some kind. In fact, Jesus said that most people will live for sin and will be eternally condemned to Hell, whereas just a few will live to do the will of God and be saved eternally (Matthew 7:13-14).

One notable example of this is seen in Genesis 6. Of all the people who were living on the earth at that time, only Noah and his family (8 people in total) were living in a way that had God’s approval. The rest of the people in the world were living to please their own fleshly desires (see Genesis 6:5-7). Certainly, it would not have been easy to live for God among all of this great wickedness. Yet, that is exactly what Noah chose to do – and he even was a preacher of righteousness in that world of evil (see 2 Peter 2:5).

Another example can be observed in the life of Elijah. As the wicked king and queen Ahab and Jezebel sought to kill this prophet of God, he fled into the wilderness, eventually going into a cave. From this cave, Elijah prayed to God, saying, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the

sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life” (1 Kings 19:10). Although God revealed to Elijah that there were still 7,000 in Israel who had not bowed before the false god Baal (1 Kings 19:18), this passage demonstrates how alone some people will feel whenever they try to serve God faithfully.

So, will you stand for the truth that is taught in the gospel of Jesus Christ – even when the majority of people around you will not? Are you willing to identify sin and unrighteousness as such – even when most people around you are practicing some form of it? Are you willing to teach the true doctrines of the gospel – even when most religious people are not willing to believe and obey them? If you are not, you are ashamed of the gospel.

### **How you can show approval of evil**

It is clear that most people around you are involved in some kind of evil because they are not living entirely according to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, let’s revisit Romans 1:32 to give greater consideration to a statement that is made. Those who practice unrighteousness (such as was identified in verses 18-31) are said to be “deserving of death.” This is spiritual death (separation from God). But, it is not just these who are said to be deserving of death. Instead, Paul said, “not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” So, if you are showing approval for the evil things that are being done, you are also guilty in the sight of God. Consider two ways that you can show approval of evil and demonstrate that you are ashamed of the gospel.

(1) You can show direct approval. Direct approval would be shown by giving your express permission for the sinful thing that is done. Or, you can also show direct approval by participating in the same sinful activity that is being done.

(2) You can show indirect (tacit) approval. While some who profess to follow Jesus Christ are not willing to show direct approval for some wicked thing, they are willing to show indirect approval. You can show indirect approval for a wicked activity by *not* taking advantage of your opportunity to condemn the wickedness. While you could teach someone

about the wickedness of a certain activity, you choose to say or do nothing.

## ***Yes...If You Will Not Let Your Light Shine***

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You are ashamed of the gospel *if* you will not let your light shine. Once again, God does not just want you to claim to follow Him. He wants your life to actually look like the life that He lived. He wants your life to be separated from the sinful ways of the world and demonstrate a different way of living to the people who are around you. So, even if you are professing allegiance to Jesus Christ, if you are not letting your light shine so that everyone can see your commitment to Jesus Christ, you are demonstrating that you are ashamed of the gospel.

### **Jesus Christ stood out from the world**

Jesus Christ said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (John 8:12). Everything about Jesus’ life was different from the ways of the world. John 3:19-21 says, “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Jesus perfectly showed the ways of God to the people. Although He was tempted in the same ways that all people are tempted, Jesus did nothing that was contrary to God’s righteous ways (Hebrews 4:15). He always had the right thoughts, said the right things, and did what pleased God. There were no exceptions.

Whenever He did this, He exposed the wickedness of others who were living on this earth. Just as light exposes darkness, Jesus’ life that was fully committed to righteous living fully exposed those who were living in sin. Others could see that they were not living according to God’s righteous

ways – because they were not living like Jesus. Yet, there were some who wanted to keep their wickedness concealed from others. For this reason, many people (especially some of the wicked religious leaders of the Jews) hated Jesus and were envious of Him. Ultimately, this led them to crucify Jesus.

### **The gospel requires that you let your light shine**

Just like Jesus was the light of the world, the gospel reveals that Jesus expects those who follow Him to shine as lights in the world. Matthew 5:14-16 says, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

So, your life must stand out as a bold contrast to the ways of this world – as much as light stands out in bold contrast to darkness. You see, the world is focused on the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (see 1 John 2:15-17). Therefore, the one who is truly devoted to serving Jesus Christ will always provide a stark contrast to the ways of the world. His/her life will be as noticeably different from the sinful ways of the world as an illuminated city on a hill stands out in the darkness for miles around! Then, through your good example of righteous living, you can show people the way to Christ – the true light of the world. You see, your job is simply to reflect Christ’s light to the world around you, pointing the way to Jesus Christ.

But, what is the extent to which the gospel of Jesus Christ requires you to stand out from the world? How much darkness does the gospel permit you to have in your life before you no longer are an effective light for the Lord? Consider two passages.

First, Ephesians 5:11 (as we considered earlier) states, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.” There is to be no joint-participation with any of the works of darkness. These works fail to produce any fruit that the Lord wants from your life. Although you were “once darkness,” now you are “light in the

Lord” and must walk/live “as children of light (Ephesians 5:8-9). Your life must be committed to “finding out what is acceptable to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:10) and choose not to have any involvement with the works of darkness. Instead, you must shine as lights in this world of darkness in order to expose the darkness for what it really is!

Second, James 1:27 says, “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” Two elements are identified in this passage as being part of pure and undefiled religion before God. The first involves visiting those who are troubled (orphans and widows are named specifically). Then, the second element is particularly applicable to our study. In order for your religion to be pure and undefiled by anything that is evil, you must keep yourself without spot from the sinful ways of the world. So, it is simply *not* acceptable for you to become involved in anything that is sinful – even if you believe that it is harmless or “not a big deal.”

## **How you can blend in with the rest of the world**

There is a lot of wickedness in this world – and you must not be part of any of it. Instead, you are to show a completely different way of living. However, if you are ashamed of the gospel of Christ, you will not want your life to look that different from the world. Instead, if you are ashamed of the gospel, you will (as Matthew 5:15 references) hide your light under a basket so that you can blend in with the darkness that is around you. Perhaps you will do this out of fear of being ridiculed, fear of being persecuted, fear of being cut off from others, etc. Consider three ways you can blend in with the darkness of the world and demonstrate that you are ashamed of the gospel.

(1) Think the same way the world thinks. The world is focused on physical desires and ambitions that are contrary to God’s righteous ways (see Romans 8:5-8). You can think the same way the world thinks by putting your priorities on things of this world (i.e. your job, your hobbies, your wealth, your own pleasures, etc.). You can think the same way the world thinks by being consumed with worry

about physical things, by lusting after things God has forbidden, by making decisions that reflect physical interests rather than spiritual ones, etc.

(2) Talk the same way the world talks. The world engages in many forms of language that fail to please God. This includes profanity, euphemistic expressions, taking God’s name in vain, gossip, lying, deceit, etc. So, if you allow your speech to employ any of these tools, you will fail to please God and glorify Him. Instead, you will blend in with the world.

(3) Do the same things the world does. The world is involved in many types of sinful activity. This includes sinful sexual relationships, stealing, consuming alcoholic beverages, dressing immodestly, participating in recreation/entertainment that is not entirely pure, using drugs and tobacco, etc. So, if you allow your conduct to reflect the same things, you blend in with the world and fail to show the world how God wants people to live.

## ***Yes...If You Do Not Teach The Gospel***

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You are ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ *if* you do not teach the gospel. Although every child of God has different opportunities and abilities with regard to teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, there is something that God expects you to be doing in this area! Unfortunately, there are many Christians who either do not view teaching the gospel as part of their Christian responsibilities or fail to actually do the work. But, even if you are professing to follow Jesus Christ, if you are not actively doing your part to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who are lost, you are demonstrating that you are actually ashamed of the gospel.

*The gospel is God’s saving message*

Let’s revisit Romans 1:15-17 (as quoted earlier). Again, the apostle Paul said, “So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the



gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’”

A main reason that Paul was ready to preach the gospel of Christ to those who were in Rome and was not ashamed of the gospel was because the gospel of Christ is “the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes”! Remember, this message contains good news. In fact, it contains the greatest news that mankind has ever heard or will ever hear!

Those who would believe and obey the message of the gospel (whether they are Jews or Gentiles) will be saved from eternal punishment in Hell fire and be granted eternal life with God in Heaven. This was a message that Paul believed was worth telling – and was worth telling to everyone he had the opportunity to tell it. He was so convinced of the power of the gospel that Paul was even willing to suffer for the cause of Christ in order to teach this message to others and devote his entire life to spreading this message (as seen through his extensive travels in order to preach the gospel).

Today, the gospel’s message still has this same saving power for anyone who will believe and obey it. It still teaches men about the devastating effects of sin, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and the opportunity all people have to be saved if they will believe and obey what God has commanded them to do. It continues to have both a universal need and a universal appeal because it deals with the soul and eternity of every single person who ever lives on this earth!

## **You are required to teach the gospel**

As important as this message is, you must recognize that it does *not* spread itself. Instead, the word of God is compared to seed in the hands of a sower (see Luke 8:4-8, 11-15). Of all the ways God could have chosen to have His saving message spread throughout this world, “it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe” (1 Corinthians 1:21).

But, preached by whom? 2 Timothy 2:2 indicates how it is that God has desired for His saving

message to be spread throughout the world to every person who needs to hear it. “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” So, it is God’s plan for those who have learned and obeyed the saving message of the gospel to teach it to others. Then, these who learn and obey the gospel are expected to teach it to others, who must teach it to others, etc., etc., etc.

In fact, this is something that God’s people *must* do. 2 Timothy 2:24-26 says, “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”

So, this work of preaching God’s saving message to the lost is not just a recommendation or a good idea for God’s people to be involved in. It is also not a work that is reserved for just a few of God’s people. Instead, anyone who wants to serve the Lord “must” do the things listed in this passage. And, a main focus of this passage is to help those who are in opposition to God (i.e. people who are living contrary to the message of the gospel) correct their lives so that they can escape Satan’s trap, learn the truth, and come to repentance.

But, what if you fail to spread God’s saving message? First, as Romans 10:13-15 indicates, people who are lost in their sins will not hear the saving message, they will not believe in Jesus Christ, and they will not call upon Him through obedience to the gospel so as to be saved. Second, as James 4:17 indicates, you will be guilty of sin. For, James says that those who know to do good and fail to do it commit sin!

## **How you can fail to teach the gospel**

You have the responsibility to teach the gospel by using your abilities and opportunities. Yet, there are many people who do not utilize their abilities and opportunities in this way. Thus, the seed of God’s word that should be scattered throughout this world remains stored away in the barn (Haggai

2:19), accomplishing no good and working to save no additional souls. Then, even more than this, an individual who makes choices not to spread the word of God demonstrates that he/she is ashamed of the gospel. Consider a few ways you can fail to teach the gospel.

(1) Don't view teaching the gospel as your responsibility. There are many who profess allegiance to Jesus Christ, but do not believe that they have been given the responsibility to teach the gospel. Instead, they believe that is the job of a select few individuals to preach the gospel to those who are lost. Yet, as we have already seen, God expects every servant of His to be teaching. Hebrews 5:12, for instance, indicates that there is a "time you ought to be teachers."

(2) Don't take advantage of opportunities. Opportunities to teach the gospel of Christ are abundant all around you. Jesus said, "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the field, for they are already white for harvest" (John 4:35). There are lost people all around you. But, you must lift up your eyes and determine to look for opportunities to preach the gospel. Then, whenever those doors of opportunity are opened, you must have the boldness to say and do what needs to be said and done!

(3) Don't ever purposefully attempt to teach someone the gospel. How often do you set out with the single purpose of teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ? How often do you go into your community and determine to tell people the message of the gospel? How often do you go up to someone just to tell them about the gospel? How often do you make a phone call to share the saving message of the gospel with him/her? Jesus wants us to go into the world and preach the gospel to the people we have the opportunity and ability to teach (Mark 16:15)!

(4) Don't view teaching the gospel as being a matter of great urgency. Perhaps you recognize the responsibility of teaching, but you always find some kind of excuse why you "shouldn't" teach the gospel at the present time. Instead, you seem to always find a way to push the matter down the road. Yet, you should recognize that there are many people who are

headed for an eternity in Hell fire living all around you. Are you going to be so ashamed of the gospel that you will allow those people to lose their earthly lives without telling them the saving message of the gospel?

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## Conclusion

Are you ashamed of the gospel? Most people who claim to be "Christians" would say they are not ashamed of the gospel. But, we have seen that you *are* ashamed of the gospel if you are ashamed of the Lord. You *are* ashamed of the gospel if you will not stand for what is right. You *are* ashamed of the gospel if you will not let your light shine. And, you *are* ashamed of the gospel if you do not teach the gospel. Please choose that you will not be ashamed of the saving message of the gospel. Instead, boldly live for Jesus Christ today, always stand for what is right, let your light shine as bright as it possibly can, and tell as many people you can possibly tell about the saving message of the gospel! If you will do this, Jesus Christ will not be ashamed of you on the Day of Judgment!

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## Study Question

Are you ashamed of the gospel?

### 1. Yes...If You Are Ashamed Of The Lord

Explain how the gospel centers around the Lord.

What does it mean to confess the Lord Jesus? Why must you confess Him?

How can you deny the Lord?

## **2. Yes...If You Will Not Stand For What Is Right**

Does the gospel require you to stand against sin?

Will standing for what is right always be easy?

How can you show approval of evil?

## **3. Yes...If You Will Not Let Your Light Shine**

How did Jesus Christ stand out from the world?

Does the gospel require you to let your light shine?

How can you blend in with the rest of the world?

## **4. Yes...If You Do Not Teach The Gospel**

How is the gospel God's saving message?

Are you required to teach the gospel?

How can you fail to teach the gospel?