

Romans 1:15-17

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) *1:16-17* Theme of Romans and the most life-transforming truth God has ever put into the hands of mankind
- 2) *1:16* While the principles of the Gospel are considered “foolishness” by the world (1 Corinthians 1:18), the habits instructed by the faith are just as offensive, because of the position against all the desires and habits of the mind of a natural man.
- 3) *1:16* To confess Jesus as Lord, but then to be ashamed of Him is a lie not only to man, but also to yourself.
- 4) *1:16* The fear of man and not being able to stand against their arguments are the greatest snares in witnessing.
- 5) “The unpopularity of a crucified Christ has prompted many to present a message which is more palatable to the unbeliever, but the removal of the offense of the cross always renders the message ineffective. An inoffensive gospel is also an inoperative gospel.” ~Geoffrey Wilson
- 6) *1:16-17* Four words crucial to understanding the Gospel:
 1. Power—the expression of God’s capacity
It is not within our power to change our own sin nature. We can change our habits and practices, but only the power of God is able to overcome man’s internal sin nature and bring spiritual life where there was death.
 2. Salvation—the greatest display of God’s power
The power of God in salvation rescues people from the penalty of sin, which is spiritual death and eternal separation from God.
 3. Believes/Faith
Eternal life is both gained and lived by faith from God in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8). Good works (behavior) are the product of salvation, but not the means of it (Ephesians 2:10).
 4. Righteousness
Faith activates the power that brings salvation. In that act, the righteousness of God is revealed and He imparts His own righteousness to those who believe.
 - 7) *1:16* The Jews are listed first chronologically because they are through whom God ordained salvation to come (John 4:22). Justification and salvation are equally offered to all. The Gospel was to be addressed to them first, but not exclusively (Matthew 10:6).