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THE POWER OF GOD FOR SALVATION

Romans 1:16-17

"This passage in Paul became the very gate of paradise to me." (Martin Luther)

I. Why Paul is Eager to Preach the Gospel in Rome (v. 16a)

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel..."

Why might a follower of Jesus be ashamed of the gospel?

- o Mark 8:34-38
- o 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- o 2 Timothy 1:8, 12

II. Why Paul is Not Ashamed of the Gospel (v. 16b)

"For it is the power of God..."

A. Powerful *for what?* — "...for salvation..."

B. Salvation *for whom?*

- o Universal — "...to everyone..."
- o Conditional — "...who believes..."
- o Historical — "...to the Jew first and also to the Greek [i.e., Gentile]."

III. Why the Gospel is Powerful for Salvation (v. 17)

"For in [the gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed..."

A. Righteousness *from* God

- o An "alien" righteousness as a gracious divine gift (Rom. 10:3; Phil. 3:9)

B. Revealed in the Gospel

- o The gospel really is "good news" for sinners!

C. Received by Faith — "...from faith for faith..."

- o “by faith *from first to last*” (NIV) / “by faith *through and through*” (John Murray)
 - o In other words: we are justified by *faith alone* (Rom. 3:27-28)
- D. Reinforced with Scripture — “...as it is written...”
- o “The righteous shall live by faith.” (Habakkuk 2:4)

Discussion Groups

1. Why might Christians be tempted to feel ashamed of the gospel in our culture today? How does this passage of Scripture encourage us not to be ashamed of the gospel?

2. How has the gospel proven to be powerful in your own life and the lives of others?

3. Does it really matter where our righteousness comes from? What practical difference does it make in our relationship with the Lord and in our relationship with others?
