

2. Discussion...The whole concept of being unashamed of the Gospel is a heart matter. There are some points which arise incidentally in our passage that help us to think more honestly about it.

a. Think...what the Gospel has meant (means) to you.

This is a bit subjective but necessary. To you, the Gospel has meant "grace, mercy, and peace." (v. 2) It has meant life and immortality in the place of death. It has meant light and understanding in the place of uncertainty and fear. Sometimes one will be ashamed of humble beginnings and wish he had been born in a castle instead of an humble place, etc. But if he had not been born at all?? So with us. We should never feel any surge of shame in connexion with the Gospel or the messengers who proclaim it...without it we would not have any life at all.

b. Think of the force of its message

The Gospel is the power of God in Romans 1 and in this passage it is the proof of God's grace and eternal purpose. It has a side to it which is "before the world began" but is now made known in the work of Christ. It is a powerful world changing message with an unstoppable force. Ancient in its beginning it is modern in application and the redemptive factor of its truth is plainly witnessed in all economies. When the force of the Gospel is seen..when the wisdom of God is shown in its work and message, surely the believer has no cause to fear either its application or expression. We sometimes feel shame because we are not certain that a particular element will live up to its advertisement. But with the Gospel such is not the case. Its force is such that it will more than live up to the expectations of all who trust.

c. This of what you mean to the Gospel