



<sup>15</sup>So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. <sup>16</sup>**For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.** <sup>17</sup>**For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”**

Since Paul cannot be there to preach directly, this letter will suffice, and these two verses are the theme.

16 expounds, 17 expands, the rest of the letter contains the details of the argument.

Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation

### Not ashamed

2 Tim. 1:1-18 – There were those who were ashamed of the gospel, likely in Rome, too.

The *gospel* is subject to ridicule by the world. Why? The world loves philosophy, but it hates *facts*.

1 Cor. 3:18-23 – Become a fool with me! The world glories in the mind, intellect, learning, understanding, and moral behavior. The gospel does not (Isa 64:6; Phil. 3:8).

“If you are clear in your theology and in your doctrine, you will know that no natural man can believe the gospel...So if you expect a natural man to believe the gospel simply because you are putting it to him, you are denying the gospel; you have not understood it yourself” – Dr. David Martyn Lloyd Jones

1 Cor. 1:23 - The offense of the cross. You are so condemned, lost, and hopeless that if Jesus Christ had not died for you, you would never know God and could never be forgiven. You are hopeless, vile, and useless.

Mark 3:20-21 – He is out of His mind!

Paul was willing to be the laughingstock of Rome.

Are you *not* ashamed of the gospel? Why?