

Carl Thomas

Summer of Faith / Proverbs 3:9–10; Habakkuk 2:4; Malachi 3:10; Luke 16:10–11; Romans 1:15–17; Romans 12; 2 Timothy 2:15

---

Romans 1:16–17 (NASB95)

**16**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.

17For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous *man* shall live by faith."

- Studying Paul's use of the Greek word Faith in the New Testament
- 3 types of faith
  - Believing Faith
  - Trusting Faith
  - Obeying Faith
- 3 questions
  - What does God want me to believe?
  - Where does God want me to trust?
  - How does God want me to obey?
- There is a war against your faith

- The enemy does not want you to trust God
- And he helps shape culture in a way that tries to force us to trust in the gods of the world instead of the one true God.

We don't even recognize how this culture shapes our values until Holy Spirit challenges us to reflect the values of God's kingdom.

- In today's passage we see Paul trying to kick in the door of the culture in Rome to get the Gospel at work in the lives of the Romans
- In Rome, there was a Culture of shame and honor
- Avoid Shame, seek honor
- Eastern world had a shame centric culture. One reason the roman empire flourished is because it elevated behavior above ethnicity.
  - Capture territory and teach people this new culture.
  - The people Rome sent to new cultures to learn the Roman way were called apostles
  - Apostles were sent to teach the new customs
  - People who could not adapt were shamed into adapting
- We see this in the **crucifixion**. Those being crucified by the romans were stripped naked, beaten bloody, and hung up shamefully.
  - They didn't disappear
  - The goal was to shame them so people would reject them and what they did.
  - In the case of Jesus, they wanted people to reject his teachings as shameful.
  - People of honor don't go against the Roman Empire that was shameful.
- Paul is challenging this cultural value with the values of God's kingdom.
- We see this same dynamic with timothy is imparting confidence to his

disciple Timothy to be proud of the Kingdom he is a part of.

- Christ now defines what is honor and what is shame.
- Paul tells us power in weakness, confidence while being put to shame because God will reward us.

### 2 Timothy 2:15 (NASB95)

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

- We are called to embody the values in the word of truth
- This is counter-cultural spiritual formation
  - Rome says we should be ashamed. But the Apostles called Rome Babylon.
  - Their identity was not in Rome's acceptance but in being members of the Kingdom of heaven

### Romans 1:15–16 (NASB95)

15 So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

16 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.

- Salvation is based in saving faith.
- But in Romans he is talking about another faith – Trusting faith.

### Romans 1:17 (NASB95)

17 For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous *man* shall live by faith."

- Let's dig in here
- All caps, quoting the Old Testament.
- Passage in Habakuk chapter 2.

- 
- Habakuk is set near the end of the Assyrian Empire
- They Chaldeans had conquered the Israelites
- God had warned them many times that it would happen if they do not repent and eventually it did.
- But the prophet knew God and questioned him.
- Why God are you allowing these wicked people to continue to be over us.
- God tells Habakuk to record a vision.
- The people must wait till the appointed time that will demonstrate the righteousness of God.

#### Habakkuk 2:4 (NASB95)

**4** "Behold, as for the proud one,  
His soul is not right within him;  
But the righteous will live by his faith.

- In a time when injustice was prevailing, God is telling them to remain faithful and they will receive their reward, deliverance from the people oppressing them.
- But they had to remain faithful
- What they could see was bloodshed and oppression.
- They were called to trust God despite what they see.

Trusting Faith is expressed by being faithful to God and His ways.

- So, if we look at Habakkuk The righteous shall live by faith we aren't talking about believing faith.
- We are talking about remaining faithful to the covenantal God

Faithfulness is a heart condition where a person decides that following Jesus is the beginning of their ethics.

- No matter what the world says, I am going remain faithful to God and wait for my blessing.
- I am going to believe God in a world that tells me to trust something else.
- We have covenantal relationship with God through Jesus. and it is expressed through faithfulness.
- A trusting relationship with God.
- We see this in salvation. If we put our faith in Jesus, God has promised to wash our sins away.
- This culture is all about protect yourself, trust no man,
- God wants us to put our faith in Him.

The Bible is filled with stories of God blessing people who remain faithful to him.

- If we are going to grow into fully mature Christians, we have to determine in our hearts to be faithful to God.
- The devil hates this. He doesn't care if you go to church. He will fight you tooth and nail to start being faithful.
- When a believer begins to mature, God begins to require faithfulness where there are idols.
- Israel, fertility and success in crops.
- Greatest area of warfare is in being faithful in your finances.
- God is looking for people he can bless with the Romans 12 gift of giving.
- But you have to demonstrate you can be trusted with money.

Luke 16:10–11 (NASB95)

**10**“He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.

11 "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the *use of* unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true *riches* to you?"

- 
- So many people have their blessing held up because they are scared to be faithful in their giving. They just don't trust that God has something better.
- We wear these trauma glasses and are constantly worried yesterdays failures are going to be lived again tomorrow.
- You can trust God.
- Cereal – trust me
- I want us to be a community that can trust God.

Malachi 3:10 (NASB95)

10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

- If we are going to unseat the power of the demonic in south Florida, we are going to have to challenge the god of money.
- We can't serve money. It's a great tool but a terrible god.
- God said test me in this. If you are faithful in your giving, he will bless you in ways you can't imagine.
- My house.

Proverbs 3:9–10 (NASB95)

9 Honor the Lord from your wealth

And from the first of all your produce;

10 So your barns will be filled with plenty

And your vats will overflow with new wine.

- Testimony of God's faithfulness in their finances and people who don't tithe.
- God is looking for people he can bless with the Romans 12 gift of giving.
- This week
  - What does God want me to believe?
  - Where does God want me to trust?
  - How does God want me to obey?

24 The Lord bless you, and [a]keep you;

25 The Lord cause His face to shine on you,And be gracious to you;  
And be gracious to you;

26 The Lord lift up His countenance to you,And give you peace.'  
And give you peace.'