
DAY 7 • AUGUST 11

Unashamed of the Gospel's Message**READ: GALATIANS 3; EPHESIANS 2:1-9; ROMANS 1:16; 4:16**

²³Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

GALATIANS 3:23-27

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8,9**REFLECT**

We rally behind and preach the gospel to those around us because we are convinced and confident of its power. It is not something we respond to and follow just because it makes us feel good about ourselves, or feel good in general. It is the gift of salvation that saves and frees all who receive it by faith. For this reason, we can be unashamed of the gospel's message.

Gift. The world tells us we have to work hard in order to get ahead in life; that nothing comes without a price, and we always have to look out for ourselves. On the contrary, the Bible tells us that salvation is a gift that we enjoy because Jesus paid for our sins on the cross. We did not earn it by any of our good works. Rather, it is the manifestation of God's love and justice. Because this is the gift of God, we don't need to boast in our works or achievements to get a free pass to His presence. Our response then becomes thankfulness, and a readiness to be used for His purposes.

Salvation. The message of the gospel is also the story of Jesus' victory over death. Death says that everything that matters is limited to this life, and when we die, all will be taken from us. But when Jesus died on the cross, He gave us a hope that will never end, even after death. Our hope is renewed, knowing we are now welcome to spend the rest of eternity with Him. The gospel is the greatest news we could ever receive, for it assures us of God's presence both now and in the life to come.

For all. No matter who we are, where we come from, or what we've done, salvation is available for all who repent and receive it by faith (Romans 4:16). Acts 10:34,35 tells us that God does not show partiality in extending His grace, and He welcomes all who fear Him. The more we understand that salvation is God's plan for all people, the more we can be intentional in sharing it with others.

If we are confident and convinced of the gospel's message, we begin to value it in light of God's heart for the lost and His great plan for us. There is no such thing as being "too young" or "too inexperienced" to preach the gospel—we preach it because we are convinced it is a message that everyone is destined to hear.

RESPOND

1. Is there an area in your life that you are still struggling to fix by yourself? Take time to reflect on Ephesians 2:8,9 this week to understand more of what the gift of salvation means for you.
2. Since Jesus became your Lord and Savior, what have you been freed from?
3. How does knowing God's plan to save all of mankind change the way you view the people He has placed in your life?

PRAY

1. Pray for God to increase your understanding of the gospel's message and to deepen your conviction of the gospel's truth in your life.
2. Pray for the passion to continue sharing the message of the gospel with others.