

DAY 8 • AUGUST 12

Unashamed of the Gospel's Power

READ: ROMANS 1:13-16; PHILIPPIANS 3:3-10
1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-18,23

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.

ROMANS 1:16

REFLECT

Paul began his letter to the Romans by saying how he was longing to see the saints in Rome. Even though he didn't plant the church there, we see Paul's eagerness to preach the gospel in that area. But why was he eager to do so? Today, we will look at three possible reasons Paul was eager to declare the gospel to them.

The power of the gospel to save us. Paul knew, and experienced firsthand, that the gospel *is the power of God for salvation*. He recognized that it is only by believing in the gospel that anyone can be saved. No amount of merit, achievement, adherence to rules, talent, or looks can ever save us from and pay for our sins. But the good news is *while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*, saving us from the penalty for our sin which is death (Romans 5:8). Knowing and experiencing this power firsthand, Paul could not help but preach the gospel!

The power of the gospel to transform us. Paul, before encountering Christ and the gospel's power, was a *Hebrew of Hebrews, a Pharisee, a persecutor of the church, and blameless as to the law*—therefore, righteous by it and in the eyes of others (Philippians 3:5,6). But upon his radical encounter with Jesus as he was on the road to Damascus, Paul knew that he could not *put confidence in the flesh* because it is only by faith in Christ that we can become righteous. Since then, his life had changed from being a persecutor of the church to a propagator of the gospel *immediately proclaiming Jesus* after such a powerful encounter (Acts 9:20).

The power of the gospel that compels us. Paul was *under obligation* to preach the gospel to the Gentiles because he was called to do so. But it was not only out of obligation; he understood how it also saves and transforms others. He proclaimed, *Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!*

In the same way, we can preach the gospel to our friends, classmates, teachers, enemies, and even strangers because we know and have experienced its power to save us from our sins and transform us to be more like Christ. This is what compels us to move in its power and preach it.

RESPOND

1. How is your life a testament to the transforming power of the gospel?
2. Is there a family member or friend that needs to hear and experience the power of the gospel? How can you present the gospel to him or her this week?

PRAY

1. Pray for open hearts and opportunities for your family members and friends to experience the saving power of the gospel this week.
2. Thank God for the gospel's saving power that you have experienced. Pray for a greater and deeper realization of the transforming power of the gospel in your life.