

Living A Life of Gospel Urgency

A Charge for 2024

Romans 1:16

We Must Not Be Silent *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel...”* The context of this passage is Paul’s desire to share the gospel in Rome. The church of Rome has been inspirational, gaining a reputation as a strong church of faith, yet like every church and area, they still must combat sin, false teaching, and spiritual laziness. In fact Paul dives into the sin of homosexuality in verse 18 of chapter 1. People tend to shame others when they share the truth of God’s Word. Paul realizes that he will be shamed for the gospel, yet is willing to except this fact. You and I will be shamed for the gospel, people will roll their eyes, or say “he’s one of those.” In some places in this world being unashamed for the gospel may even lead to violence. What is at stake if we are silent? Look with me at **Romans 10:14** *“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”* The reality is that some, even many will not call upon Jesus for salvation because they don’t realize that Jesus is the only way for the forgiveness of sins. When we share that Jesus is the way the truth and life we will be shamed. In the 1960s people shamed believers because they believed in Jesus. Today people shame believers because we believe this is true and nonbelievers are saying we’re arrogant because we believe that our way is right. The humanist theory says that there is no such thing as truth. This theory is false because the truth that Mack trucks will hurt you and kill you if you walk in front of one running full speed is true! Here’s way we shouldn’t be silent about the gospel.

a. Jesus Commands it! (Matt. 28:18-20, Mark 16:14-18, Luke 24:44-49, John 20:19-23, and Acts 1:4-8)

b. Billions will be condemned unless they receive the truth of the gospel! There are close to 8 Billion people in this world. 2.3 billion of them follow Christ. (According to Global Commission Partners). That means almost 6 billion have never called on the name of Jesus Christ for salvation. In our 15 coastal counties 497,310 people profess no faith, 599,489 are unchurched. In Pearl River County we have a population of 56, 503 in 2021. 41,722 are unchurched, and 34,621 profess no faith. Only 33% of Mississippians believe that Christ is the only way to eternal life.

c. The Church is concerned and commissioned for this work. **Matthew 13:47-50** *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. 48 When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and*

separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” We are designed to share the gospel!

We Must Not Be Surprised *“for it is the power of God for salvation...”* We shouldn’t be surprised at the power of God because it’s not my power or your power. If it were dependent upon my power for someone’s salvation, they would never be saved. (Drunk wife comes to faith under evangelist preaching example) When we pray we are desperate for the presence and power of Jesus Christ for salvation. ***Romans 8:11 “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”*** and ***Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,***” We are destined to see the supernatural power of God!

We Must Not Be Selective *“to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”* Acts 10 and Acts 15 really combat the idea that the gospel is for a select group of people. It is for everyone, every tribe and nation. It began as the message of salvation for the Jews, then on day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came and others came to faith. In Acts 8, persecution drove them out of Jerusalem to evangelize. The point I believe we can parallel with in today’s application is that we can’t just share the gospel with people like us. The gospel is hope for everyone, even people who are radically different than us. ***“And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14).***

How can we live a life of urgency for the gospel?

1. **Pray** (Acts 4:31) And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.
2. **Prepare** through Bible Study (Romans 10:17, Acts 4:13) “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.”
3. **Proclaim** (Mark 16:15) And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.
4. **Participate** (Hebrews 10:24-25) “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”
5. **Praise** (Psalms 63:3-4) “Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.”

We are devoted to supporting God’s plan of salvation! The original hearers of this passage lived out a life of gospel urgency. They were unashamed of the gospel. Philip was scourged, thrown into prison, and crucified. Matthew was killed by a sword. Matthias was stoned in Jerusalem and beheaded. Andrew was crucified. Peter was crucified upside down. Luke was hanged on

an olive tree in Greece. “This is not about how to avoid a wounded life, but how to avoid a wasted life. Some of you will die in the service of Christ. That will not be a tragedy. Treasuring life above Christ is a tragedy.” - John Piper