

# UNASHAMED AND UNDISTRACTED

Romans 1:14-17

November 12, 2023

---

## Introduction

- I. Is objective truth knowable or is it an open concept that each person pursues in his/her own life journey?
- II. Honor / shame cultures compared to our Western perspectives

**Key Point:** Shame was an immediate reality for Adam and Eve after the fall when they covered their nakedness and attempted to hide from God. Praise God that he has provided a way out from our self-inflicted \_\_\_\_\_.

*I Peter 1:3-5 – 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

## Being shamed by others while remaining unashamed

- I. Paul was eager to preach the gospel, but often found himself in the midst of \_\_\_\_\_ (II Cor. 11:23-26)
- II. Jesus, in his hour of need, was abandoned, accused, tortured, and murdered all while listening to their mocking voices. Yet he endured it, \_\_\_\_\_ the shame, for the joy that was set before him (Heb. 12:2).
- III. “Ashamed” in Rom. 1:16 points to being “disgraced or personally humiliated because of your \_\_\_\_\_ confidence.” It means you trusted in something and that something let you down.

## Hiding our shame

- I. Two Biblical examples where the human efforts did not restore confidence but only dug the hole deeper.
- II. Being both proud and ashamed, we seek to hide our failures through worldly means, but Scripture invites us to be spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ in the refuge of Jesus (Col. 3:3)
- III. Shame pronounces you guilty and deficient. Jesus pronounces you guiltless and says his grace is \_\_\_\_\_.

## Paul's three “I am” statements about the Gospel

- I. There is a mysterious dynamic to how God sovereignly predestines some for salvation and gets all the credit for the accomplishment of their salvation while at the same time he so often entrusts to the saints the communication and delivery of that gospel from our mouths to another person's mind and heart.
- II. Paul writes, “I AM UNDER \_\_\_\_\_” (v14)
  - A. Picture the image of a financial obligation that is owed by one person to another and must be paid off.

- B. The metaphor of the \_\_\_\_\_ in Ezekiel 33. Paul used this language as he said goodbye to the elders of the Ephesian church (“I am innocent of the blood of all” – Acts 20:26-27).

**III. Paul writes, “I AM \_\_\_\_\_” (v15)**

- A. The Greek word for eager here is “*prothymos*” which is “*pros*” (before) and “*thymos*” (passion). Picture a primary passion that compels you forward in the way that a \_\_\_\_\_ leans forward...presses forward toward the finish line.
- B. To whom has God entrusted gospel opportunities into your hands? Where are the doorways into becoming a minister of the gospel that God is asking you to boldly enter?

**IV. Paul writes, “I AM NOT \_\_\_\_\_” (v16)**

- A. This third “I am” statement from Paul is actually the \_\_\_\_\_ of the other two.
- B. Paul uses a double negative here by combining the words “not” and “ashamed.” He is emphasizing his posture toward the gospel is the exact opposite of being ashamed. (see also Isaiah 55:11).
- C. Paul grounds his unashamed pride in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel of Jesus Christ in two amazing purposes that it serves.
- 1) First, to demonstrate the \_\_\_\_\_ (“*dynamis*”) of God for salvation.
  - 2) Second, to reveal the \_\_\_\_\_ of holy God within the personal lives of men, women, boys, and girls.
    - i. Justifying us by grace through faith (2 Cor. 5:21)
    - ii. Sanctifying us by grace through faith (Col. 2:6)

**Conclusion:**

- I. In our flesh, we have every reason to be ashamed of our own sin before our righteous and holy Creator. The gospel rightly \_\_\_\_\_ us for that. We had a misplaced confidence in ourselves.

• **II Corinthians 7:10** – *For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.*

- II. In the Spirit, we have every reason to be unashamed of the new creation that we are because of the person and work of our righteous and holy Savior. Our confidence in him is \_\_\_\_\_.

• **Philippians 1:6** – *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

- III. In the world that we inhabit until the Lord takes us home, while we may be the target of the world’s shame and derision, our ultimate reassurance is remembering God’s comfort in calling us \_\_\_\_\_.

• **Hebrews 11:13-16** – *13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.*