



Sermon Discussion Questions

"I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel"

Romans 1:1-17
August 14, 2016

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Openers:

What is something for which you have ever been *reluctant*? What is something for which you have ever been *eager*?

Questions:

1. If you received a letter from Paul, or a modern-day version of Paul, saying that he wanted to visit UCM and your small group, how would you react?
2. What do verses 8 -13 reveal about Paul's attitude toward the Romans?
3. Paul implies in verse 16 that people can be ashamed of the gospel. In contrast, he says that he is eager to preach the gospel (v 15). What might lead a person toward one attitude or the other?

Application:

4. How do you define "the gospel"? Try to communicate in a few sentences or so what you understand the gospel to be (thereby helping each other to articulate an understanding).
5. What do you think causes the reluctance in many Christians to share the gospel in words -- to remain somewhere between "ashamed" and "eager to preach" (vv 14-16)?

How have you ever enjoyed sharing your faith with another?

6. What meaning does the word "righteousness" have to you? What connotations has it had? Reread v 17 aloud and discuss the word's meaning in the context.
7. In what ways is the power of God evident in the church today, worldwide and local, as recognized by surrounding societies?
8. Take some time to pray as a group, silently or aloud, that God would give you a thought or an impression to take with you, as UCM embarks on this adventure through Romans over the next months. Be alert and ready this week to how God may be answering your prayer.

*These questions were adapted from *The NIV Quiet Time Bible* (InterVarsity, 1996) and *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).