

Are You Ready To Face God? - Romans 1: 16-17

Are you ready to face God?

Are you ready to stand before Him in all His perfection and holiness? Do you feel ready to stand before the judge of the universe?

The Christian can confidently cry out 'YES!' With a broad smile across his face and deep joy in her heart, knowing that this moment will be a wonderful 'coming home' not to be feared but to eagerly anticipated and this text tells us why...

Read Romans 1: 16-17

1) It is the Power of God

GK *dynamis* – not weak and tepid but highly volatile and explosive. The Gospel is God's chosen means through which the world will be reconciled to Him. He created the cosmos through His spoken word 'let there be' He said and there was, the words in this book (Bible) are loaded with Divine power, a light able to penetrate into the darkest caverns of the soul; no one person is out of reach, none are able to withstand what we call 'irresistible grace', God's gift of salvation, made effective in our hearts by His Holy Spirit as the Good News concerning Jesus Christ is heralded

Q. How can we know if we have received this power?

2) To everyone who believes

Belief, accepting into your heart that the gospel is true, that Jesus Christ the Son of God truly sacrificed himself in your place, truly defeated the sin in your life, truly restored your relationship with God, to truly make you His child, to give you everlasting life, to enable you to stand before Him, as one who is dearly loved and worthy and loving God as a response, this is how we can know.

3) The righteousness of God is revealed...

Q. What do you understand God's righteousness to mean?

In this passage what is being described is not God's righteousness in terms of His character and perfections. The NIV gives us a more helpful take on the meaning...

4) For in the Gospel righteousness *from* God is revealed...

This distinction is crucial in our understanding of the passage. In the gospel God reveals to the world how He makes sinners righteous or acceptable before Him, this is a forensic term to do with status as in a law court. The gospel reveals how it is that guilty men and women like us receive a 'not guilty' verdict by the judge of the universe. This is what makes the gospel 'Good News', because I am declared to be innocent of all crimes, all charges, the verdict reads 'this man, this woman has committed no wrong and so no penalty is due to them'. Amazing! How is this possible? Because Jesus stands in our place, His perfect life is attributed to us as He chose to take upon Himself our punishment and condemnation.

Q. Why do you think many who don't go to church disqualify themselves from attending on account of not feeling good enough?

Q. If this gospel is all about removing our guilt and freeing us to come to God confidently, why do so many have a very alternative idea of what the church is about?

Q. How can we help to correct these misconceptions?

5) From faith, for faith, as it is written the righteous shall live by faith

Q. What do understand 'the righteous shall live by faith' to mean?

Read Ephesians 2: 8-10

What began, as faith in Christ's gospel, must continue on as it started. In other words, every day we wake we celebrate that our status remains 'not guilty' before God on account of the cross. We live by faith to enjoy and glorify the one who gave us everything, not to earn his favour and approval but in response to already having these. Are you ready to face God? From faith, to faith means you can emphatically answer 'yes' no matter how 'well' you are doing, this is a yes to the victory of Christ over sin and death!