

The Gospel: the power of God — Romans 1:15-16
Basil Howlett - Carey Baptist Church – 25 January 2009

In Romans 1:16 we have an example of *litotes*, a figure of speech where a negative is used to express a positive. When Paul says '*I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ*', he really means, I am proud of it and thrilled by it. Paul wrote this letter to the Christians in Rome to tell them he had often planned to visit their city but had been prevented from doing so, but he was still eager to preach the Christian message there. For two reasons:

- What was the reason we saw last Sunday?
- Because he was not ashamed of the Gospel.

Why was Paul not ashamed of the gospel but proud of it and eager to preach it everywhere?

1. **Because it is a message from** (see verse 1)

2. **Because it deals with big issues**

- What does it tell us about God?
- What does it tell us about ourselves?
- What does it tell us about the future?
- What does it tell us about the Lord Jesus Christ?
- What did Martin Luther learn from Romans 1:17?
- 'The righteous will live by faith.' Which Bible book is Paul quoting?

3. **Because everyone needs to hear it (verse 16).**

4. **Because it works.** God uses it to change people's lives.

- List 3 people or groups whose lives had been changed by the gospel message in Paul's day?
- Think of two people you know whose lives have been changed by the gospel.

Has your life been changed by the gospel? If so, in what way?