

Great Statements Of Paul

No. 218

Introduction.

- I. One of the greatest and most dynamic men who has ever lived was the apostle Paul. This man, who was converted from Judaism to Christianity, led countless thousands to Christ and under the influence of the Holy Spirit wrote a large portion of the New Testament.
- II. In Paul's writing he made many great, inspirational statements. Let us study some of Paul's great statements that tell us about him and have changed the lives of multitudes of people.

I. **"I Am Not Ashamed Of The Gospel"** - One of the great statements of Paul is found in Romans 1:16.

A. Though the gospel had a carpenter for its founder, fisherman for its advocates, and the poor for its supporters, Paul was not ashamed of it and proudly stood before men and proclaimed Christ crucified. (1 Cor. 2:2).

1. Paul endured much because he was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, but was a bold, courageous spokesman of it. (Acts 14:19; 16:16-24).
2. In 2 Corinthians 11:22-27 Paul listed many of the things he suffered for the sake of the gospel.

22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. 23 Are they servants of Christ? (I speak as if insane) I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. 24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. 26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; 27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

- a. Paul indeed suffered much because he was not ashamed of the gospel.
- b. He was more than willing to labor and suffer for Christ and His saving message.

B. Paul exclaimed he was not ashamed of the gospel because it is **"the power of God unto salvation."**

1. The word "power" comes from the Greek word "dunamis." This is the word from which our word "dynamite" comes. The gospel has tremendous power. It is the dynamite of God! It has the power to saved the lost souls of the world from hell and transform them into the likeness of Christ.
2. **Once I read about a lady who was a recent convert to Christ.** She was full of zeal and wanted to tell

everybody about salvation through Jesus. One day she was talking to one of the town drunks and invited him to church. When an older sister saw this, she called her aside and gave her a stern cautioning. She said, “You have to be careful as to whom you invite to church. You don’t want people like him in the church.”

- a. **What a great and terrible mistake the older Christian made!** She failed to realize that Christ came to seek and to save the lost. She failed to realize the gospel has the power to transform the most wicked people on earth. When Paul visited the various cities on his missionary journeys, he did not shun the wicked and search their city for those who would be the “good” church members. He preached to fornicators, to idolaters, to thieves, to drunkards, to abusers of themselves with men, to extortioners and others who had fallen into the filthy depths of sin.
- b. Paul said to the Corinthians who have been guilty of all these sins and more, “Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified.” The transforming power of the gospel had changed their lives and made them servants of righteousness instead of servants of Satan and sin. The gospel had the explosive power to save men in the past. It changed many of the Corinthians and ten of thousands of others.

3. **The gospel has the power to save men today.**

- a. On one occasion I heard **Reese Bryant**, who was a missionary in Nigeria for several years, tell of a Nigerian witch doctor who was a fornicator, an idolater, a liar and even a murderer. The witch doctor was so depraved that he would not hesitate for a moment to murder those who interfered with his witchcraft. This man heard the gospel message preached and was so moved that he gave up his immorality, his idolatry, his lying and his killing and became a servant of righteousness ready to die for the cause of Christ. On many occasions this man jeopardized his life rather than to compromise or deny Christ and His teachings.

b. **In my life I have seen the gospel change many people.**

- 1) I have seen some rascals become saints. I have seen some sons of Satan become sons of God. I have seen some sons of darkness become sons of light.
- 2) **I went to school with a man who was in his late twenties.** He told me on several occasions with remorse of the vile life he had lived before he heard the gospel. The gospel had changed his life. It changed him from a wild beer guzzler to a good husband and father. He is now a dedicated gospel preacher.
- 3) **Let us never underestimate the awesome power of the gospel of Christ.** It is the only power on earth that can give a man a new heart. The gospel has the power to give a man a new purpose. It is the only power on earth that can save a man’s soul! (Jas.1:21).

C. Paul said the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to **everyone who believes**. God offers salvation to every man, regardless of his wealth or race or social standing, who will believe on His Son.

1. **The question might be raised, “What does it mean to believe?”**

- a. The word “believe” means that one must believe what the Bible teaches about Christ. It means that one must believe in the virgin birth of Christ, the Sonship of Christ, His miracles, His teachings and His death, burial and resurrection. These things are the very heart of the gospel and unless one believes these things he shall die in his sins.
- b. The word “believe” means also that **one must obey Christ and His teachings**. There will be millions

of people who believe everything the Bible teaches about Christ who will spend eternity in hell. They will be lost because they do not obey Christ.

2. **Saving faith obeys.** (Matt. 7:21; Lk. 6:46; 2 Thess. 1:8, 9; Heb. 5:9).

- a. James made this bold statement to those who believed in the one God of heaven, but who did not have an active faith. (Jas. 2:19).
- b. Even so today, we are no better off than the doomed demons if our faith does not motivate us to obey Christ and manifest our faith with righteous lives and deeds.

II. **Christ Shall Be Magnified In My Body** - A second great statement of Paul is found in Philippians 1:20.

A. Paul was determined to magnify Christ in his body and he wanted others to be drawn to Christ by his life.

1. He did not want to do or say anything that would cause men to look down or blasphemy the sacred name of Jesus.
2. **I wish every Christian would say**, “Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death” and then live in such a way as to draw men to Christ.

B. **One time a young Christian, who had been staying with an elderly lady**, began to pack his bags and prepare to leave. The elderly lady who had been greatly impressed by his Christlike life said, “There’s one thing you want be able to pack. You’ll have to leave that behind.” The young Christian said, “Whatever is that?” The lady said, “You can’t pack your influence.” This young Christian was magnifying Christ in his body. He was making Christ beautiful and glorious to others by his godly, Christlike life.

C. **We can also magnify Christ by telling others about Him.**

1. **Once a little girl came home from her first Sunday school lesson** very enthusiastically. She was asked, “What did you do at Sunday school this morning?” She answered, “We sang a song in a big room and then went into a small room where a lady talked.” “Who was she?” The little girl said, “I don’t know her name, but she must be the mother of Jesus, for she talked about Him all the time.” This teacher was magnifying Christ to others through her wonderful words about Jesus.
2. We should so fill our conversation with Jesus that others will be impressed with Him and see a close kinship between us and the Savior we exalt. Christ can be made beautiful or ugly by our words!

III. **“I Can Do All Things Through Him That Strengthens Me”** - A third great statement of Paul is found in Philippians 4:13.

- A. At the time Paul made this grand statement he was in prison at Rome. He had been in prison for nearly 2 years according to Acts 28. Life was hard and very uncertain.
- B. **Despite this disturbing fact**, Paul declared the he could bear any **trial**, overcome any **temptation**, perform any **duty**, or meet **any other difficultly** of life through the help of Christ who strengthened him.
- C. **There are many great statements made in the Bible**, but I know of none greater and more comforting than this one made by Paul while he was in prison at Rome.
 1. Jesus Christ is the best friend we have and will uphold us in all circumstances.

2. When trials come, temptations assail us, duties press hard upon us, let us look to Jesus our unchanging Friend who will never forsake us, but who is always present to help us.

IV. **Another Great Statement** - Another great statement of Paul is found in 2 Timothy 4:7,8.

- A. It is thought by most biblical scholars that Paul wrote these words of faith and triumph as he was about to be put to death in Rome during his second Roman imprisonment.
 1. Paul had fully committed himself to Jesus and was ready to lay his life down for Him. He could face death, even a violent death, with great confidence because he knew death is gain to the Christian.
 2. **All Christians who faithfully trust in Jesus can have this same confidence.** The Christian know that through death he gains freedom from the world of sin and sorrow and has a crown of righteousness laid up for him in heaven.
 1. He can say as **John Knox** did, “Live in Christ, live in Christ, and the flesh need not fear death.”
 2. He can say as **David** did. (Psa. 23:4)
 3. He can say as **Paul** did. (Phil. 1:21).
 4. He can say as **Jesus** did, “Into your hands I commend my spirit.”
- B. **Most people** in the world would give any amount of money and would do anything to have this kind of confidence toward death.

Conclusion.

- I. **Only Christians can have the great confidence.** We can face death with this unwavering confidence and with this great hope if we will commit our life to Jesus the Lord of glory and run the course of eternal life.
- II. Will you submit your life to Jesus today by confessing your faith in Him and by being baptized? Come as we stand and sing.

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)