



**SHEROES & CHAMPIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**  
**I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL**  
**The Book Of Romans - Women's Discipleship Group**  
**Terri McFaddin Series #3 Lesson #1**

***Scripture Focus:*** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (Romans 1:16)*

**Key Word:** **Gospel** (Greek –Euangelion) Good tidings of the Kingdom of God and salvation.

**OPENING STATEMENT:** When the Apostle Paul makes the statement: *“I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ...”* (Romans 1:16) It makes me wonder what was being said about the Gospel that motivated Paul to boldly defend its principles. The first clue comes in (1 Corinthians 1:22) – *But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness.*

Many Jews rejected the Gospel of Christ because it was in conflict with the Law of Moses. Many of the Greeks rejected the Gospel because it was not based on intellect and human logic. When Paul wrote the letter to the Romans, he had not yet visited the church, but he was fully aware of the sin and perversion that was a part of the Roman culture and had even infiltrated the church. He did not mince words or deal gently with their highly publicized immorality.

Paul spelled out in details the practices that offend God and the consequences of such actions. In Romans 1:16-28, he lists the reasons why the Lord *“gave them up”* which means to remove the restraints from their minds so they could no longer distinguish between good and evil – right and wrong. The following is a list of the spiritual violations noted in the scriptures:

1. Suppressing the truth in unrighteousness – vs. 18
2. They knew God, yet did not glorify Him as God – vs. 21
3. They were unthankful – vs. 21
4. Changed the image of God into an image of a man or animal – vs. 23
5. Exchanged truth of God for a lie – vs. 25
6. Worshipped and served creatures instead of the Creator – vs. 25

Spiritual practices were clearly reflected in the lifestyle of the Romans. As a result spiritual wickedness, they suffered the following consequences.

1. Vile passions – vs. 26
2. Women doing what was against nature – vs. 26
3. Men leaving the natural use of women – vs. 27
4. Men burning with lust for men – vs. 27
5. Their bodies paid for their sins – vs. 27
6. Debase minds – committing unnatural acts – vs. 28

## 7. List of sins – vs. 29-31

Paul clearly states in Romans 1:16, that the Gospel of Christ is the only way to be “saved” practice and consequences of sin. It is the responsibility of every Christian to acknowledge and agree with what the Lord calls ungodliness and unrighteousness. We must also be careful not to allow these practices to find acceptance among Christians.

### **OBSERVATIONS:**

1. According to the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of Romans, what immoral practices were women involved in?
2. Were these women Christians or non-Christians?
3. What similarities do you see between the Roman culture of old and our present day lifestyles?

### **INTERPRETATION:**

In Romans 1:29-31 Paul makes a long list of sin that went beyond idolatry and homosexuality. Why do you think he wrote about so many different types of sin?

**PERSONALIZATION:**

Romans 1:21 says that those who rebelled against God *became futile or confused in their thinking*. After receiving salvation, how did your thinking change for the better?

**APPLICATION:**

Perhaps you are shy about praying in public or mentioning the name of Jesus. If you are not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, decide what you will change about your behavior that will reflect your devotion to the Lord.