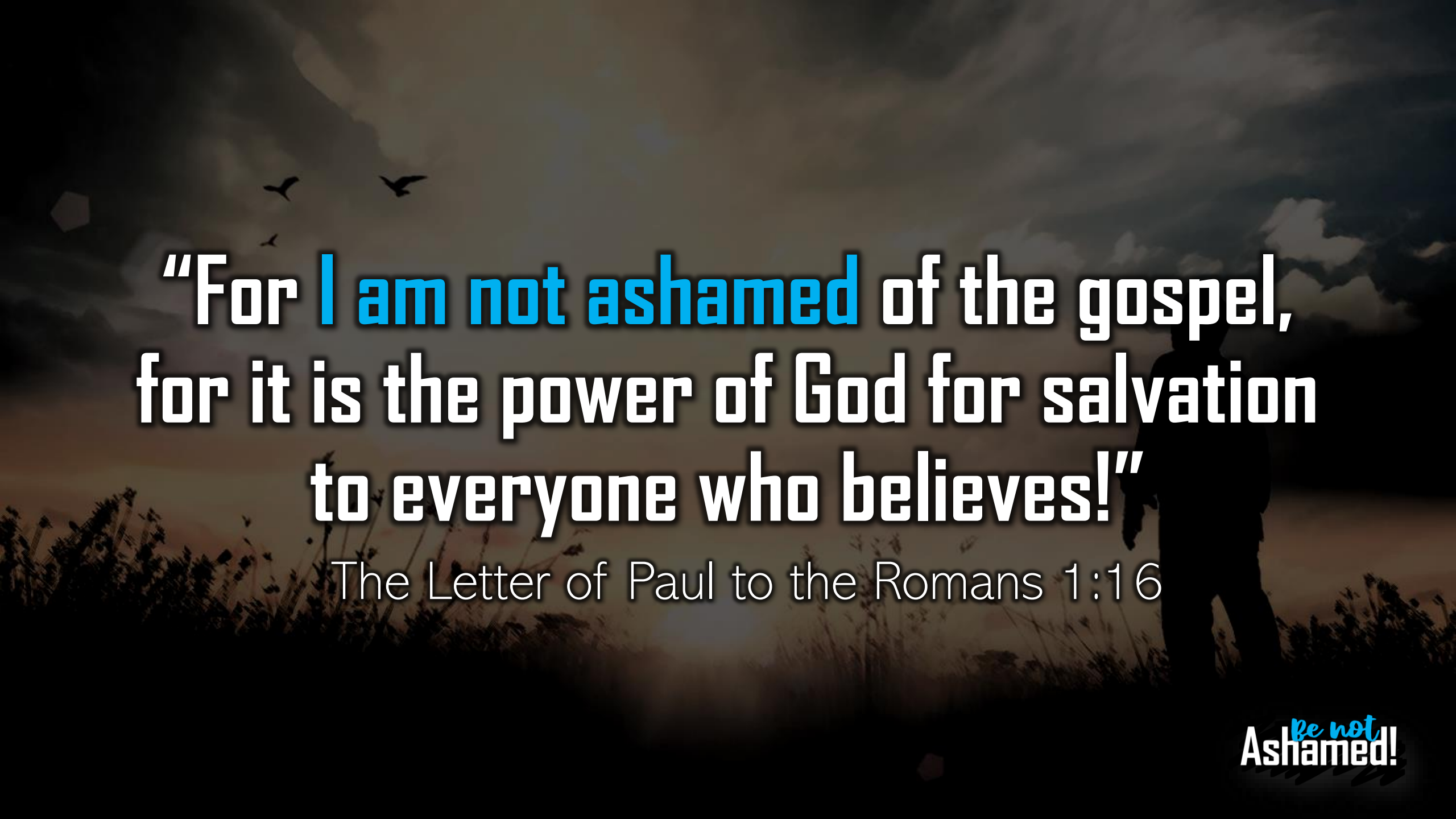


Class One
Does God Exist!

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6



**"For I am not ashamed of the gospel,
for it is the power of God for salvation
to everyone who believes!"**

The Letter of Paul to the Romans 1:16

Be not
Ashamed!

The Struggle for what we Believe!

- Suffering with Christ and the glory that will be revealed:
 - "...I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." **Romans 8:17-18**
- Our Suffering is necessary to develop endurance
 - **Romans 5:3-5:** "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

Be not
Ashamed!

The Systemic Dark Force of Evil

- Our persecution it is darkness masquerading as light
 - **Ephesians 6:12** "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."
- We must resist this systemic pressure on our faith
 - **Romans 12:2** "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Denying Self or Gain the World?

- Being Unashamed of the word of God is critical
 - Luke 9:26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.
- Have we followed the Lord's directive?
 - Luke 9:23-25 "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and then forfeits himself?"

Be not
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Living the **Reality** of Gods Existence

- We must believe in Gods Existence in our Lives
 - Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who diligently seek him"
- We must live the Reality of Gods Future Promise
 - Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

The **Power** of Believing in Gods Future

- Believing in the Existence of God
 - Dan 3:14-15: "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?"
- Gods Future must outweigh our present life
 - If this be so our God whom we serve **is able to deliver us** from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. **But if not**, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

**Be not
Ashamed!**

This is Gods **World** and His Rules

- We have no right to expect God will change for us
 - ...I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: (Isa 46:9-10)
- The testimony of King Nebuchadnezzar
 - Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

Submitting to Gods Sovereign Will

- If we believe God exists then we must submit to his will
 - **1 John 2:17 (NIV)**: The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.
- The truth is not just something we read
 - **Ephesians 4:15 (NIV)**: Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

Why Do **We** Exist?

"Men were not ushered into being for the purpose of being saved or lost. God-manifestation, not human salvation, was the grand purpose of the Eternal Spirit. The salvation of a multitude is incidental to the manifestation, but it was not the end proposed. The Eternal Spirit intended to enthrone Himself on the earth, and, in so doing, to develop a Divine family from among men, every one of whom shall be spirit because born of the Spirit, and that this family shall be large enough to fill the whole earth, when perfected to the entire exclusion of flesh and blood"

Be not
Ashamed!

Being **Made** in the Image of God

- Being Made in the Image and Likeness of God
 - Gen 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image^{H6754}, after our likeness^{H1823}
 - צֶלֶם H6754 tselem - form, function or role (be like)
 - דְּמוּת H1823 demut - attributes or characteristics. (act like)
- Our Role is to Manifest the Divine Attributes
 - You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Eph 4:22-24)

How Do We **Manifest** Gods Image?

- Holiness and Moral Responsibility:
 - 1 Peter 1:15-16: "But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'"
- Transformation and Restoration:
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18: "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image..."

The Perfect Image of God

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Rom 8:28-31)

Does The Image of God Exist in **Us**?

- If we believe in God He must exist in us
 - **1 Corinthians 3:16 (NIV):** "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"
- We must develop the temple
 - **1 Peter 2:5** "...you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

Be **Not Ashamed** of the Gospel

“And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, **not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard**, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven...”

Colossians 1:21-23)

**Be not
Ashamed!**