

Here Paul writes: "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.' "

There are four key terms in this passage that should be defined:

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- (1) the gospel
 - (2) salvation
 - (3) the righteousness of God
 - (4) faith

(1) What is "the gospel"?

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Throughout Scripture, the gospel is the good news of salvation by Christ's redemptive work applied through faith.

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More fully stated, the gospel is the good news that God has graciously accomplished salvation for sinful human beings through Christ and His redemptive work – His incarnation, atonement, and resurrection – and that God graciously applies that salvation to sinful human beings through faith in Christ and His redemptive work.

(2) What is "salvation"?

Salvation means "deliverance." We have already seen that in the broader sense salvation can mean deliverance from enemies, from oppression, from sickness, from destruction, or from sin, as well as deliverance to a right relationship to God or to blessedness or to glory.

However, in Paul's use in verse 16, salvation means deliverance from sin. But since "sin" is a very general term, we must ask some specific questions:

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Does salvation from sin mean deliverance from the guilt of sin (i.e., liability to transgressed law)?

Does it mean deliverance from the penalty of sin (i.e., death)?

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Does it mean deliverance from the power of sin (i.e., the domination of our innate tendency toward sinning)?