

S.N. Jan 13, 80 6:10 PM WXPI-  
Above Park July 1, 90 P.M. Ray  
meeting

"IT'S DYNAMITE"

Romans 1:16-17

How would you like to read your own obituary. In 1888, one morning, Alfred B. Nobel, inventor of dynamite, and a man who grew wealthy by producing weapons of destruction - awoke to read his own obituary. It seems that his brother had died, and a French reporter had carelessly reported the death of the wrong brother.

Anyone who would have been shaken - but (to Alfred Nobel,) the shock was overcoming. And overwhelming. He suddenly saw himself as others saw him. An amazing discovery that few persons make. He was to the world - the dynamite king. The industrialist who became rich from explosives. So far as the general public was concerned - that was the whole story. The Nobel life. (To the world,) he was quite simply a merchant of death. And for that alone, he was known by many.

He was disturbed by what he read. And Nobel resolved to do something different with his life. He made out his will and his fortune for the prizes for those who had done the most for the causes of world peace. His last will and testament would express his life's ideals. The result was the Nobel Prize - five prizes awarded each year - the most notable which is the peace prize. One of the most valued prizes granted today.

When Nobel, the Swedish chemist, invented dynamite - he gave it a name taken from the Greek word that means power. That is the very word that Paul used to describe the Gospel. Rom. 1:16.

This verse expresses the theme of the book of Romans. The book is about the

righteousness of God. How does one go about describing one's righteousness. Righteousness means (right standing.) And it is good news that we can have right standing with God. That good news has power. God has seen that power at work throughout the Roman world. Paul felt it. He wanted to tell the Roman Christians about it. And in the process, he left us this wonderful truth that we have in our hands - the Gospel of Good News. That we can have a (right) standing with God and believe me - it is dynamite.

Martin Luther called Romans the chief part of the New Testament. And the perfect Gospel. Coldridge said it is the most profound work in existence.

Paul was taking his stand by the glorious Gospel - the universal Gospel, the Good News. That is forever new and unchanging in a changing world.

Now behind this dynamite, Paul is writing this letter to the church at Rome. This scene is - that he is at a seaport at Corinth. Where people were boarding the ship. Among the passengers, was a lady by the name of Phoebe. He gave her the message to the Romans. We know that that cargo on the ship, might have been a load of gold. But nothing could be more valuable than this book which was being carried by this person. To the Christians at Rome. It set forth Christian doctrine - the very foundation of stone, of our faith.

Paul began with a (greeting) that was warm - and he said, I have wanted to come, and I have longed to come and preach the Gospel to you at Rome. Now Paul had preached throughout the Roman empire. The great centers of influence. Such cities as Jerusalem.

The world's most holy city. He had preached in Damascus - the world's oldest city. He had preached in Athens - the city of philosophers. But now he wanted to preach in Rome - that he might somehow bear some fruit among them.

Rome was at its peak in power - it stretched all the way from Scotland - way down to Northern Africa in the South. The Atlantic in the West. And there was a golden marrow post in Rome. That marked the center of the empire and all of the roads led into this empire. The roads were clear way up in the central of Europe. A glorious capitol city with probably 2 million population. Marble, beautiful buildings, great wealth. One emperor, Caligula, put on a banquet that cost a million dollars by our measurement of money. They feasted - there was carelessness about wealth.

Paul said I would love to come to Rome. I want to preach. In this pagan wicked city - beyond description in moral decay.

Two of every three people that walked that street were slaves. Human life was cheap. Prisoners captured in war were often killed. Infants that were unwanted - were left out and exposed to die. Roman families had lost all concept of marriage. And a man would go from one wife to another - freely and frequently. Murdering his wife to get rid of her. That is why Nero at age 17 had one wife after another.

This was the Rome that Paul wanted to preach. But somebody would say, well Paul - you don't understand how wicked and pagan it is. But Paul gives you back the answer. Now it really is, as Dr. Roy Angel says, I am not ashamed. But Paul is saying

I am proud of the Gospel of Christ. And I want to come to Rome. And I have no misunderstanding because I am proud of the Gospel, of Jesus Christ. Caesar's had great power. And there were poets and meeting places. And Paul knew all of these obstacles, that were in his way. And yet, he said - that he had a desire to go to Rome.

V. 15 - Paul says, I feel a debt to this lost world. I have never fully discharged my responsibility. He seems to feel that the task is more than human. But he wants to give the full measure of himself. He will pay on the debt until all of his resources are exhausted. He is ready to apply all he is upon the debt of these Gentiles.

This word ready means (an eagerness) to preach the Gospel. To those described. It is like a boiling up. He pants. He is ready to burst into flames. Paul wants to preach.

Now you will note that Paul did not preach in generalities. He had a definite Gospel that was absolute in its realm. And final in his revelation. He did not hesitate to say that he had the last word as to salvation. Paul preached the Gospel with authority.

Now let us see several things about this dynamite.

#### I. AFFIRMATION

V. 16  
Now when Paul thought of the Gospel as dynamite - he made an affirmation in V. 16.

I am not ashamed of the Gospel. What he meant was is that he is proud of the Gospel. I have complete confidence in that Gospel, he says.

That Gospel can do something - it has power! It can actually accomplish something, Paul said. The Gospel is the power of God, and the power of God unto salvation. It can do anything the soul needs for time and eternity. It is the power of God to everyone that believeth. The Gospel (can do) everything which is needed for everyone - and what a Gospel this is!

It is an amazing thing to think of the background of that statement. Paul had been in prison in Philippi. He had been chased out of Thessalonica, stoned in Lystra. He had to leave by night from Beroea. He was laughed at in Athens. He had preached in Corinth, where his message was foolishness to the Greeks. And a stumbling block to the Jews. And out of that background, Paul says - I am proud of the Gospel. There is something in the Gospel which made Paul victorious, over all men.

But Paul could write out of his background what he had seen!

He had seen a jailer at Philippi, fall on his knees and ask - what must I do to be saved.

He had seen churches established in Europe and Asia.