

## FAMOUS IN HELL

### **Acts 19:13-16 (CSB)**

Now some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists also **attempted** to pronounce the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had **evil spirits**, saying, “I command you by the **Jesus that Paul preaches!**” <sup>14</sup>Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish high priest, were doing this. <sup>15</sup>The evil spirit answered them, “I know Jesus, and I recognize Paul—**but who are you?**” <sup>16</sup>Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them, overpowered them all, and prevailed against them ...

### **The Population of Hell Knows the Difference:**

- **Using Jesus’ Name vs. Belonging to His Kingdom**
- **Power vs. powerless**

### **The Holy Ambition:**

→ **God would use us to help bring more people into His presence**

### **The Dissatisfied Contentment:**

→ **That others would trust Jesus, follow Him & His ways, and join us at His table**

### **Romans 1:14-17**

I am **under obligation** both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. <sup>15</sup>So I am eager to **preach the gospel** to you also who are in Rome. <sup>16</sup>For I am **not ashamed** of the gospel, for **it** is the **power of God** for **salvation** to **everyone** who **believes**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the **righteousness of God** is revealed from **faith for faith**, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by **faith**.”

→ **To be famous in hell is to be unashamed of the Gospel on earth.**

The **Gospel** is how people receive **salvation** and enter God’s **presence**.

### **The Gospel (a working definition):**

*Good news that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has achieved—through his life, death & resurrection—everything necessary for anyone to be right with God, to be reconciled relationally to Him, and to receive everlasting salvation & joy from Him.*

### **The Gospel (in bullet points):**

- **What God requires, God provides in and through Jesus.**
- **Jesus in our place: substitute & sacrifice → Savior-King**
- **Jesus is the GOSPEL**
  - **Person: Son of God**

- Offices: prophet; priest; King

### The Gospel Invites a Response:

1. Because it is **TRUE**.
  - a. **Transfer** of trust
  - b. **Turning** from sin ...
  - c. **Trading** agendas ...

### Matthew 10:32-33

... everyone who **acknowledges me before men**, I also will **acknowledge before my Father** who is in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

→ To be **honored in heaven** is to be **unashamed** of the Gospel on earth.

{one at a time}

Famous in hell!

Honored in heaven!

... = Unpopular on earth ...WHY?

**Shame, stigma and offense** are associated with the Gospel.

### Shame, Stigma, and Offense:

- 1) The **powerlessness** of other powers:
  - a. Power of nation (*politics; military; economics*)
  - b. Power of society (*norms; culture; traditions; religion*)
  - c. Power of self (*individualism; humanism; 'good'*)

### Shame, Stigma, and Offense:

- 2) The **content** of the Gospel = it's truth
  - a. Nobody is nor can be "*good enough*"
  - b. Blood & Death
  - c. Resurrection
  - d. Eternity

### Shame, Stigma, and Offense:

- 3) The **context** in which we live with the Gospel
  - a. "Your truth" (personal & subjective)
  - b. Cancel culture
  - c. Consumerism & experience economy
  - d. Social media

### **2020:**

- **To Mask or Not to Mask?**
  - = Measures of faith and love
  - **LESS LIKELY TO INVITE PEOPLE TO CHURCH**

### **2020:**

- **Fear of Earthly Death >> Eternal Considerations**

### **2020:**

- **Voting & Who Won?**
  - **More important than the Gospel**

### **2020:**

- **Rise of digital consumption**
  - **Find content that you “like”**
  - **Avoid content that you did not “like”**

If we **lose** the shame, stigma, and offense of the Gospel, then we **lose the Gospel!**

### **2026 & Beyond:**

- **Will we be unashamed of the Gospel?**
- **Will we be famous in hell & honored in heaven?**

### **If YES, then HOW?**

- 1) **Popularity and human approval** must lose its grip on us.
  - a. The Gospel will be **vindicated** forever.
  - b. The Gospel **alone** brings **forgiven sinners** into final & everlasting joy.
- 2) **Hell** is a real place and real people do go there **forever**.

### **Romans 1:18**

For the wrath of God is revealed **from heaven** against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

- 3) **Realize that the most loving thing** we can do is to tell someone the truth about **Jesus and the way salvation** ... it really is Good News!
- 4) **Resolve to live Gospel intentionality.**
  - a) Embrace **our role**: to witness, to bless ... NOT to convert

4) Resolve to live **Gospel intentionality**.

- a) Embrace **our role**: to witness, to bless ... NOT to convert
- b) Who is your **one**? (= one person and/or one place)
- c) Be able to answer the question: **Why be a Christian?**

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