

As a last resource, can we say Paul was an incompetent judge of the merits of the gospel he preached? By no means! We have seen that his keen moral sense qualified rather than disqualified him for bringing in a true verdict on such a question. We have seen also that, to take the stand he did in reference to the gospel, he must have risen superior to his natural bias against Christianity produced by his early training. This in itself indicates the man's greatness. Moreover, it is worthy of note that Paul's past experiences as well as his present attainments, amply qualified him to judge of the merits of the gospel of Christ. He was a profound scholar and a clear thinker. He had felt the power of the gospel teaching in his own life. For thirteen years he had been proclaiming it in Asia and Europe, and noting its results on those who believed it. Where, then, can we hope to find a man better qualified to form a correct estimate of the gospel message than this apostle of the Gentiles? And with what overwhelming power of conviction come the words, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ," from a man scrupulously conscientious, untrammelled by prejudice, and well qualified both by natural endowments and by surrounding circumstances to judge in such a matter!

Unlike most people who endeavor to justify themselves for pursuing a certain course by declaring they are not ashamed Paul proceeds to give us his reason for his attitude. The drunkard, the gambler, the slanderer, the vile declare: "We are not ashamed;" but they stop there. They do not tell us why they are not ashamed, for they cannot or dare not. How unlike Paul, who affirms: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." He had experienced its elevating and transforming power in his own life. He had seen the wilderness of Asia and Europe rejoice and blossom as the rose wherever the gospel was accepted. He had seen the master kinder to the servant, the servant more lovingly obedient to the master; the rich more considerate of