

reason a good one? All will depend upon the person who uses it. We find people to-day who will do most contemptible things and then defend themselves by saying: "I am not ashamed of what I have done." The slave of strong drink will spend his money in that which brings untold wretchedness to himself and others, and say: "I am not ashamed." The gambler will empty his neighbor's purse, the slanderer will filch from you your good name, young and old will engage to-day unblushingly in pursuits which, in their days of comparative purity and innocence, they would have scorned, and they defend themselves by declaring: "I am not ashamed." Lack of shame, however, in such cases, is a mean apology for those who do such things. It is rather an argument against them.

May the same be said of Paul's defence? Was his lack of shame due to a blunting of his moral sensibilities by long continuance in a course which he formerly felt ashamed to adopt? Or was it the result of early training which biased him in favor of Christianity? Or did his lack of shame arise from inability to judge of the merits of the gospel he proclaimed? In reply to all these questions, we answer: No! Whatever Paul's weakness was, no one can accuse him of adopting a course the propriety of which he doubted even in the least. Indeed, he was characterized most distinctly by the very opposite of this. He was, of all men, most scrupulous, most conscientious—a man who strove to know the truth and to do it. We cannot say, therefore, that his pride in the gospel was due to a lack of moral sensibility.

Nor can we attribute it to his early training. He was a Pharisee, the son of Pharisees, a Hebrew of the Hebrews, trained in the conservative school of Judaism. All his early training was such as to develop within him a hatred of the gospel rather than an admiration of it—to make him a persecutor of Christians, rather than a preacher of the gospel of Christ. So, we conclude, Paul was proud of the gospel of Christ, and ready to preach it, not because of early training, but in spite of it.