



# Gospel Power

Romans 1:16-17

# Gospel Power

- Rom. 1:16-17 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
- The best and most concise summary of the greatest message this world will ever receive

# Gospel Power

- 1Cor. 15:1-4 - “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures”

# 1Cor. 1:17-24

- “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

# Gospel Power

- Why would anyone be ashamed of a message as powerful and profound as the Gospel?
- The world of Paul and the Roman Christians:
  - The amoral condition of that day
  - Paul was a Jew
  - The doctrine of a god that died and returned to life was anathema to Mediterranean pagans.
  - The Gospel is a difficult message for a lost, prideful world to accept.

# Gospel Power

- Proof of the poor reception of the Gospel: everywhere Paul preached, he was ridiculed, thrown out, imprisoned, or treated cruelly.
  - He had been imprisoned in Philippi - Acts 16:23-24
  - Chased out of Thessalonica - Acts 17:10
  - Smuggled out of Berea - Acts 17:14
  - Mocked in Athens - Acts 17:32
  - Called a fool in Corinth - 1Cor. 1:18, 23
  - Stoned in Lycaonia - Acts 14:19
  - Restrained in Ephesus - Acts 19:29-30
  - 35 different forms of hardship and opposition - 2Cor. 12:23-28

# Gospel Power

- Yet Paul was eager to preach the gospel in Rome, the seat of political power and pagan religion.
- What did he know that made him keep on preaching the hated Gospel?
- What was it about the Gospel that drove the apostle around the world?

# The Gospel Is Given By Sovereign Power

- God could have exercised His power against sin any way He chose, including destroying the universe and starting again. But, He loves us and chose a different means, one that cost Him a great deal
  - John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
  - 1John 4:19 - “We love Him because He first loved us.”

# The Gospel Is Given By Sovereign Power

- It is the Gospel of Christ
  - The Gospel of human religion says, “Turn over a new leaf.”
  - The Gospel of materialism says, “Your worth is determined by what you have. Gain is the goal of life.”
  - The Gospel of deconstruction says, “I'm OK and you're OK. God accepts us as we are and takes us to Heaven, if there is a Heaven”
  - The Gospel of society says, “Do as you please for life is short.”

# The Gospel Is Given By Sovereign Power

- The Gospel of Christ says, “You are a sinner, and if you die in your sins, you will go to Hell. However, God loves you and sent His Son to the world to die for your sins, and He rose from the dead as a promise of your resurrection. If you believe and obey the Gospel, you will be saved.”

# The Gospel Is Given By Sovereign Power

- Paul knew the power of the Gospel
  - 1Tim. 1:12-15 - “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”

# The Gospel Is Given By Sovereign Power

- Every life redeemed by the Gospel is a life transformed
  - 2Cor. 5:17 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

# The Gospel Has A Singular Purpose

- Why did God go to such lengths for fallen sinners?
- Salvation for human beings He loves so much!
- Salvation is a powerful word - “safety, preservation, deliverance; rescue from all harm and danger” (Vines)

# The Gospel Has A Singular Purpose

- Rescue from sin and its present defilement - Rev. 1:5
- Rescue from spiritual death, the immediate result of sin - Rom. 6:23
- Rescue from physical death, by eternal resurrection - 1Peter 1:3
- Rescue from aloneness and insecurity brought on by separation from God through sin - Eph. 3:13

# The Gospel Is A Simple Plan

- Rom. 1:16 - “for everyone who believes”
- The Gospel does not need complicated religious rituals or elaborate religious exercises. Salvation is the product of faith and obedience.

# The Gospel Is A Simple Plan

- Acts 16:30-34 - “And he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 So they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household. 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.”

# The Gospel Is A Simple Plan

- Acts 9:34-39 - “So the eunuch answered Philip and said, I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man? 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized? 37 Then Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.”

# The Gospel Is Sealed With A Solemn Pledge

- The Gospel is for every person in the world
  - Rev. 22:17 - “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”
  - John 6:37 - “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”
  - John 1:11-12 - “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name”

# The Gospel Produces A Substantial Product

- The product of the Gospel in the life of the believer is righteousness.
- A human being has two great problems:
  - Number one: He thinks he is righteous and is therefore acceptable to the Lord.
  - Number two: He is completely mistaken about number one.

# The Gospel Produces A Substantial Product

- When faith is in the Gospel and not in the self, the Gospel has the power to transform the believer
  - 1Cor. 6:9-11 - “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

# Gospel Power

- The message that saved thousands in the first century still has the power to save millions in the 21st century
- All we need to do to see the power of the Gospel is to believe in it and teach it to others
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ does not need modification. It does not need adjustment with the changing nature of the world.
- All it needs is for those who know it and believe it to share it with those who need it but do not know it.

# Gospel Power

- Isn't it amazing that God would take the most important message the world will ever hear, and placed it in the hands of reformed sinners?
- Isn't it amazing that He gave us His Gospel and then commanded us to take it to the world, knowing that no one would ever be saved apart from the preaching of the Gospel?
- 1Cor. 1:21 - "It pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe"
- We who have been saved by the Gospel are not ashamed of it. And if we are not ashamed of the Gospel, why aren't we sharing it with others?

# Gospel Power

- Rom. 10:13-17 - “For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things! 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, Lord, who has believed our report? 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”