

POWER OF THE GOSPEL TO SAVE

Int.

1. Aim: To show that the Gospel is so powerful that it can save all kinds of people including you.
2. Gospel is God's power to save
 - a. Rm. 1:16
 - b. Destruction awaits those who fail to obey - II Thes. 1:7-9
3. Question -- Is the gospel as God gave it adapted to man as he is in this modern age?
 - a. Many think we need another gospel - one that is updated.
 - b. But why? Man is the same --- sin is the same --- the remedy is the same also
 - c. The gospel is sufficient for every need and situation and this includes salvation which is man's greatest need.
 - d. Acts 4:12 - there is no other way to be saved "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"

One Gospel
4. Let us see whom the gospel saved in the N.T. age and how.
5. Then we can understand that the same remedy for sin must be used today. We can learn how they were saved and what we must do to be saved today.

Discussion

I. MURDERERS

- A. Mormons think murder is the unpardonable sin - [Doctrines and Covenant, 132:27]
1. The Jews had murdered the Son of God - Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."
 2. But Jesus had prayed for their forgiveness - Lk. 23:34
 - a. This was a conditional prayer, for they were still unforgiven on Pentecost
 - b. They had opportunity to be forgiven on Pentecost
 3. The Jews recognized that they were sinners - Acts 2:37
 - a. They asked "What shall we do?"
 - b. Peter answered "Repent,...Acts 2:38
 - c. Promise - "Remission of sins
 - d. With obedience they had forgiveness and were added to the church. - Acts 2:41, 47
- B. The gospel was and is powerful enough to save murderers
1. Adolf Eichman [credited with killing 6 million Jews] could have been saved by the gospel had he obeyed
 2. Individuals today who have committed murder may receive forgiveness of their sins by submitting to the power of the gospel.

II. BLASPHEMERS [The gospel is powerful enough to save blasphemers]

- A. To blaspheme is to speak against, revile, deny
- B. Saul of Tarsus was one of the worst blasphemers
 - 1. I Tim. 1:13 - blasphemer, persecutor, and injurious "Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief."
 - 2. He was on his way to persecute Christians when he was converted, and that included causing them to blaspheme
- C. But Saul was converted
 - 1. Jesus Appeared to him - Acts 9:3-5
 - 2. Saul asked "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Acts 9:6
 - 3. He was told what to do - Acts 9:6
 - 4. He did what he was told to do. - Acts 9:8
 - 5. He was repentant - Acts 9:9 He was obedient - Acts 22:16, 26:19, 9:18
- D. Saul was not saved on the road to Damascus as some teach
 - 1. If so the Lord did not know it, for He sent Saul into the city to find out what he was to do. - Acts 9:6
 - 2. If so then Saul did not know it, for he went into the city to find out what he was to do. Acts 9:8)
 - 3. If he was saved on the road to Damascus then Ananias did not know it, for he told him what to do - Acts 22:16
 - 4. If he was saved then he was the most miserable saved man we read about in the Bible. - Acts 8:39 If saved then why did he still have his sins 3 days later
- E. The gospel is powerful enough to save a blasphemer.

III. SORCERER [Gospel is powerful enough to save sorcerers"]

- A. Simon was a worker of witchcraft
 - 1. Acts 8:9-13
 - 2. God had condemned sorcery in the O.T. Ex. 22:18
 - 3. Simon's conversion is proof that witchcraft can be forgiven
 - a. He believed and was baptized, thus saved according to the doctrine of Mark 16:16
 - b. He was saved!
 - 4. The sin referred to in Acts 8:22 is the one he committed after he obeyed the gospel
- B. The gospel is powerful enough to save a sorcerer

IV. IMMORAL PEOPLE

- A. Some feel that they are too evil to be saved - or that they have lived too long in sin
 - 1. I Cor. 6:9-11
 - 2. Acts 18:8 "And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized."
 - 3. The Corinthians were known as being evil people.
 - 4. You do not get any worse than the Corinthians
- B. The gospel is powerful enough to save all sinners

V. RELIGIOUS PEOPLE WHO ARE IN ERROR

- A. Usually think of a sinner as some low down, immoral degenerate person with whom no one desires association
- B. Many religious sinners who are sincere, honest, and conscientious - but they are in error
- C. It is possible to actually worship God, but to do so in vain - Mt. 15:9
 - 1. The eunuch had been a long way to worship God, but he was in need of salvation - Acts 8:27
 - 2. Philip joined himself to the chariot, and preached Jesus to the Eunuch, beginning at Isaiah 53
 - 3. Preaching Jesus did not offend the eunuch. Unlike many today he did not get mad when his error was pointed out to him.
 - 4. Preaching Jesus included preaching baptism, for the eunuch asked to be baptized upon hearing Jesus preached - Acts 8:36

VI. GOD-FEARING MAN

- A. Cornelius - Acts 10 & 11
 - 1. Cornelius would be acceptable in almost any modern church - Acts 10:1,2,22
 - 2. In spite of his goodness he was lost - because he needed to be saved - Acts 11:13,14, Acts 10:6 "Oughtest" means - must
- B. Many today are deceived into thinking that they can be saved by morality alone.
 - 1. But the case of Cornelius disproves that theory
 - 2. Even good moral people need the gospel

VII. THE HEATHEN

- A. The term heathen just simply means one who is unenlightened
- B. The Jailer is an example - Acts 16:16-34
 - 1. He apparently knew nothing about Jesus
 - 2. He heard, believed, and was baptized.

VIII. AN ERRING CHILD OF GOD

- A. Simon is an example - Acts 8:13-24
 - 1. He was saved
 - 2. But he also sinned - Acts 8:18,19
 - 3. He was told to repent, which he did
- B. No one is perfect - I Jn 1:8,10 2:1
- C. The gospel is powerful enough to save an erring Christian

Conclusion

- 1. The gospel is powerful enough to save YOU
 - a. Sinner - Heb. 11:6 Acts 17:30,31 Rm. 10:9,10 Acts 2:38
 - b. Erring brother - Acts 8:22,23 - Jas. 5:16
- 2. Look into the perfect law of liberty - Jas 1:25
 - a. Receive the engrafted word which is able to save your soul
 - b. Being a doer of the word - Jas.1:22,25
- 3. God has extended his love, mercy and forgiveness. Do not turn away from Him, but obey Him right now.

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