

## POWER OF THE GOSPEL

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that the Gospel is so powerful that it can save us from sin
2. Gospel is God's power to save
  - a. Rm. 1:16 "For 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."
  - b. Destruction awaits those who fail to obey - II Thes. 1:7-9
3. Men have accomplished many things in this world
  - a. We have great power to build things - gone into outer space
  - b. But man does not have the power to save himself from sin
4. It takes the great power of God to save us from our sin.

### Discussion

#### I. THE GOSPEL IS POWERFUL

##### A. Because it was given in love

1. John 3:16
2. Love has the power to beget love
  - a. Eph. 2:4-5 "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"
  - b. Eph. 5:2 "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."
  - c. 1 John 4:10 "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins."

## B. What is the Gospel?

1. Good News - good news that Jesus died for our sins
2. 1 Cor. 15:1-4
3. The gospel is the powerful means appointed by God for the salvation of all who believe and embrace it.

## C. God had the power to resurrect Christ

1. Christ died and was buried - but he arose the 3<sup>rd</sup> day
2. Raised by the power of God- Rom. 1:4 "And declared [to be] the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead"
3. If God could raise his son from physical death then He could raise us from spiritual death<sup>1</sup>
  - a. Eph 1:19 - 2:5
    - (1) Exceeding greatness of his power shown in two ways
      - (a) Set him at his own right hand
      - (b) All things are under him
    - (2) Raised Christ from the dead
      - (a) Set him at his own right hand
      - (b) All things are under him
    - (3) Raised us from death in sin
      - (a) Quickened - made alive
      - (b) Walked in sin
      - (c) Raised up from sin

- b. Rom. 6:3-4 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."
- (1) When we obey the gospel we die to sin = repentance - turning away - when a person becomes a Christian there is one less sinner
  - (2) When a person dies they are buried. We have died to sin and .....
  - (3) We are buried with him in baptism - baptism is a burial in water
    - (a) It is for the remission of sins - Acts 2:38
    - (b) Sins washed away - Acts 22:16
  - (4) As Christ was resurrected from the dead
  - (5) We are resurrected from the death of sin
  - (6) Resurrected to walk a new life - as a Christian
- c. This is the reason the gospel is so powerful - it takes the power of God !!!

## **II. PAUL WAS NOT ASHAMED OF THIS GOSPEL**

- A. Rom. 1:16a - Paul had endured much for the Gospel
1. He was cast out of his own nation
  2. He was stoned at Lystra and drug outside the city as being dead
  3. He was beaten and imprisoned at Philippi
  4. He had been mocked at Athens
  5. But he was not ashamed to preach the Gospel even at Rome.

B. Paul was not ashamed of the:<sup>2</sup>

1. Source of the gospel - God
2. The person whom it concerned - Christ
3. The way of life required by the gospel - Christian life - separate from world
4. Nor the conditions upon which salvation was promised - HBRCB
5. Ultimate goal of the gospel = heaven

## C. Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel because it was God's powerful means of saving us

1. If man is saved it will be by the gospel
2. There is no salvation apart from the gospel
3. 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."
4. The gospel is not one of the powers used by God to save us, it is THE power of God. There is only one gospel and it is the only thing that will save us.

D. Paul was not ashamed to preach the gospel<sup>3</sup>

1. He would even preach at Rome among the learned, the rich and the powerful
2. Often members of the church are ashamed to let their neighbors know of their religious background and faith.

E. Today there are some who are so ashamed of the gospel they try to change it...<sup>4</sup>

1. Some brethren are teaching we are saved by "Grace only"

a. Rubel Shelly made this statement "We do not contribute one whit to our salvation. Our salvation arises entirely and only from grace ... not by one act of duty, not by one deed of obedience, not by one righteous thing we do. It is entirely of grace through faith."

b. He also said : "It is a scandalous and outrageous lie to teach that salvation arises from human activity. We do not contribute one whit to our salvation."

c. Randy Mayeux said: "I believe deeply that the New Testament teaches that salvation is a free gift of God, period. You are saved by grace alone."

d. The Bible does not teach we are saved by grace only.

(1) To say that we are saved by grace only is to teach that every man would be saved regardless of how he lived - Tit. 2:11-13

(2) When a person says we do not contribute one whit to our salvation, then he is denying the teaching of the Bible - Mat. 7:21 "doeth"

2. Some teach we are saved by "Faith Only"

a. Max Lucado made the following statement in a radio sermon: "All you have to do is call Him Father. Just call Him Father. Just turn your heart to him even right now as I am speaking. Call him your Father. And your Father will respond."

b. This is not what the Bible teaches:

(1) Jesus commanded us to believe and be baptized - Mark 16:16

(2) Peter commanded us to be baptized - Acts 2:38

c. Why do some teach this? They must be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ!!

3. Some teach we are saved by "prayer"
  - a. Max Lucado in the same radio sermon told his listeners to say the following prayer: "Father, I give my heart to you. I give you my sins, I give you me tears. I give you my fears. I give you my whole life. I accept the gift of your Son on the cross for my sins. And I ask you Father to receive me as your child. Through Jesus I pray. Amen."
  - b. The Bible does not teach that we are saved by prayer?
    - (1) Notice the example of Paul's conversion
      - (a) He spent 3 days praying? Was he saved? No
      - (b) He was told to arise, be baptized and wash away his sins - Acts 22:16
    - (2) Cornelius was a man who prayed to God "Always" - Acts 10:1-2
      - (a) Was he saved? No
      - (b) An angel of the Lord appeared to him and told him to send men to Joppa for a man named Peter and he would tell him what he must do.  
Acts 10:1-6
      - (c) If Cornelius was saved by prayer alone, then why was he told to send for Peter who would tell him what to do?
4. Some are teaching that Baptism is not essential
  - a. Again Max Lucado in his radio sermon told his listeners to find a church and be baptized. He encouraged them to do those things not in order to be saved, but because they were already saved."

b. The Bible teaches that Baptism is essential to our salvation

(1) 1 Pet. 3:21 "The like figure whereunto [even] baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

(2) Mark 16:16 Acts 2:38

F. Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ because it is the power of God unto salvation.

1. Therefore he was ready to preach the gospel to every person who would listen
2. When we are not ashamed of the gospel we will go and teach others.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. The power of God unto salvation is not the Law of Moses
  - a. We do not live under the Old Testament Laws
  - b. But we today live under the rules of Christ
2. God's powerful means of salvation is the Gospel
  - a. 1 Cor. 15:1-4
  - b. Preached the gospel which was the means by which they were saved
  - c. Included: Death Burial Resurrection of Christ
3. Today the only way we can be saved is by the Gospel.

## End Notes

1. Revealed Righteousness by Tom Holland - Sermon Outlines from Romans P. 5
2. Annual Lesson Commentary - July 2, 1950 P. 169
3. Annual Lesson Commentary - April 4, 1976 p. 115
4. Made at Jubilee in 1991 - quoted in "Dangers Facing the Church" - 15<sup>th</sup> annual Seek the Old Paths Lectures - July 2000 - p. 214

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