

# *Confirming The Gospel*

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Hebrews 2:3-4 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

- I. To confirm means to say, “Amen.” To fix more firmly; to settle or establish.
  - A. To testify and prove that what God says is true.
  - B. Those who have heard and received the Word of God are bound to confirm it.
    1. All who have believed the Gospel have had someone confirm it to them before they believed.
  
- II. How is the Gospel confirmed by people to other people?
  - A. It is not by displaying our “deep convictions.”
    1. Other religions have “deep convictions,” but they are founded in falsehood and imagination.
  - B. It is not by our vast knowledge of the Bible, because there are many who are very well versed in the Bible but who are ignorant of true salvation. (i.e., the Scribes and Pharisees)
  - C. It is not by our zeal because people can be zealous about all kinds of things that have nothing to do with God.
  - D. It is not by our faithfulness or our perseverance, because many that are in false religions are relentlessly faithful until the end.
  - E. It is not even by martyrdom that we confirm that the Gospel is true, because people of pagan and other false religions will die for their belief in it.
    1. Many will be so committed to earthly causes that they will lay down their life for them.
  - F. The Gospel of Christ is about the forgiveness of sins and the reconciling of sinners to God.
    1. It is about the death and resurrection, not only of Christ himself, but of everyone who is born of the Spirit by believing on Christ for the forgiveness of sin.
    2. It is about a new birth – a new man.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Galatians 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

- G. Nothing we say or do will confirm that the Gospel is true in the minds of others except we truly have victory over sin in our life.
  1. It isn't our steadfastness in service that confirms the Gospel – it is our steady victory over sin that confirms the Gospel.
- H. It is not really the victory over the few outward common, carnal sins that confirm the Gospel, either.

1. AA and other support groups can boast of people who have quit the bottle, quit the dope, quit the gluttony, etc. – without God’s help or as a result of believing the Gospel.
- I. The real victory over sin is in the inner man and his view and opinion of God and other men.

Matthew 3:10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

1. What confirms the Gospel in unbelievers is when they see a person really changed from a hateful person, who constantly views others as his enemies and cannot stop thinking and speaking evil of them, to a person who consistently loves his neighbor and who always holds forth hope for him.

Galatians 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

- J. So more than anything else it is that “new creature” which confirms the Gospel in the minds of unbelievers, and other believers.
- III. Religion is despised and despicable in the sight of most people.
- A. This is nothing new to this generation, it has pretty much always been that way.
  - B. There are superstitious people and there are the purely carnal people.
  - C. Superstitious people embrace religion of many sorts, and of about any sort.
    1. These people who jump around churches and different denominations and cults are superstitious, they are not Christians.
  - D. They are fascinated with the supernatural and are always looking for signs and miracles and physical earthly happenings to confirm their superstitious longings.
  - E. To the unbeliever it is foolishness, and it ought to be foolishness to those who profess to believe the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 14:23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

- F. The signs and wonders with which God bears witness in those who confirm the Gospel are not designed to impress the superstitious or the religious.
  1. Neither are the signs and wonders God gives after the manner of the superstitious or the occult.
  2. God’s signs and wonders are always connected to righteousness and love and mercy.

Hebrews 2:4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

- G. Signs ...of his gracious presence with them and his power working through them.
  1. They are not confused and unstable and changeable, but steady, established, and unwavering; they have found truth and are not looking for something else.
- H. Wonders... works quite beyond the power of nature, and out of the course of nature.
  1. The new creature does not think or behave according to the common understanding of the nature of a man or woman.
- I. Divers miracles, or mighty works, in which an almighty agency appeared beyond all reasonable controversy.

1. It is obvious in their life that there is a power working beyond normal human abilities and resources.
  2. They survive everything that is thrown at them while normal people would despair and be destroyed.
  3. Real miracles are things that are beyond the power of men to accomplish alone.
  4. And the greatest miracle that ever has been is that God can change a sinner into a saint of God and leave him in this cesspool of sin as a witness of his power until it is time for Him to take him home.
- J. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is full of signs and wonders that confirm the Gospel as truth.

Galatians 5:19-24 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

- IV. Our life is confirming the Gospel or denying it.
- A. Everything about our life – our attitude and our conversation says, “It’s TRUE!” or it says “It’s NOT true!”
  - B. The words that pour from our lips – for out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh.
  - C. Our walk – our conduct, the way we treat others when it will cost us to do what is right.
  - D. Our attitude toward others, toward life, toward God, and what it is based upon.
  - E. Our affections – the things we truly care about – are they basically selfish or are they benevolent, reflecting God’s presence in our life and his control over our spirit?