

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

November 9, 2014

Romans 1:1-21

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

Romans 1:16

1. What is the gospel of Christ?

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel . . . how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.” (I Cor. 15:1a, 3b-4)

The gospel is the good news for everyone who believes in Jesus Christ: His death is our judgment received in His body, our deliverance wrought by His condemnation, our soul-life preserved, our guilt removed; that it is our salvation from the defilement of sin and the damnation that it merits.

2. Why would anyone be ashamed of the gospel?

The simplicity of its message contrasts with pagan philosophical complexities (I Cor. 1:18-21)
Christ’s crucifixion was a dishonorable death, by all human standards (I Cor. 1:22-25).

The gospel attracts “not many wise men . . . , not many mighty, not many noble” (I Cor. 1:26).
The reproach of Christ clings to those who embrace Him (I Cor. 4:9-13; Heb. 11:26, 13:13).

3. Examples of the power of God:

Creation (Psa. 19:1; Rom. 1:20)

Biblical Examples: The Genesis Flood (Gen. 7)
Israel crossing the Red Sea (Ex. 14:13-28)
Destruction of Assyria’s army (II Kings 19)
The repentance of pagan Nineveh (Jonah 1-4)
The resurrection of Christ (Matt. 28; Eph. 1:19, 20; Phil. 3:10)
The conversion of Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:1-25)

Examples in History: The growth of Christ’s Church (Matt. 13:31-33)
The Protestant Reformation
The transformation of Nations

4. The correct response to the power of the gospel:

Believe the gospel (I Cor. 15:1, 2)

Proclaim the gospel (Mark 16:15)

Expect the success of the gospel (Isa. 55:10, 11)

Add nothing to the gospel; take nothing away from it (Gal. 1:8, 9; Rev. 22:18, 19)

The gospel stands by its own strength. Refrain from seeking to make it palatable to sinful mankind (I Cor. 2:1-5)