

THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION

To the saints at Rome Paul wrote, “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.” (Romans 1:16.) Thus, the apostle affirms confidently that the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation. As one reads of the journeys of Paul in the book of Acts one is impressed with his confidence in the gospel of Christ. He preached it wherever he went in cities, and towns, in the market places, in courts, and synagogues. He preached publicly and privately, when bound and unbound.

The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation. The word gospel means “good news” or “glad tidings.” The three fundamental facts of the gospel are the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. But how is the death of Christ good news? He died “for our sins.” Paul said, “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, 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.” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) Christ gave himself for our sins (Gal. 1:4). Christ gave himself a ransom for all (1 Tim. 2:6). Jesus, who had no sin, died for all men. He took your place and mine upon the cross. His was a vicarious death, a sacrificial death and a willing death.

No one can measure the love Christ had for mankind in humbling himself and leaving the glories of heaven, dwelling among men and dying upon the cruel cross of Calvary. Paul said, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.” (Eph. 5:25.) Paul prayed that the Ephesian saints might comprehend the love of Christ. He prayed “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” (Eph. 3:17-19.)

Paul emphasized God’s love for man in having sent Jesus to die for us: “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:6-8.) To Titus, his own son after the common faith, Paul wrote, “For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:3-7).

The word power is translated from a Greek word (*dunamis*) from which we get our word dynamite. Thayer’s Greek lexicon defines the word as “universally, inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth.” The gospel is explosive power. It can explode the false ideas and notions that people have. It can implode the institutions of men. It can remove the mountains of false doctrines which are in the world. Dynamite has been used in construction, mining and demolition. The gospel, God’s dynamite, can be used for construction or destruction. It can destroy sin in our lives in this world and build our spirits for eternity.

God has manifested his power in various ways. By his creative powers he made the world and all things therein. Paul said, “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.” (Rom. 1:20.) God has sustained this world by his power (Heb.1:3; Col. 1:16-17). God has power to heal, though he does not do so miraculously today (James 5:13-14). However, God’s power to save is the gospel.

The proclivity of man has always been to think that he knows better than God. Cain thought his way of worship was better than God’s way (Gen. 4; Heb. 11:4). Abram and Sarai thought that they needed to help God out (Gen. 16:1-6). On at least one occasion the Israelites thought they could take the land of promise

without God, but they were wrong too (Num. 14:40-45). Jeremiah wrote, “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” (Jer. 10:23.) David thought that carrying the ark of the covenant on an ox cart was just as good as the Kohathites’ carrying it (II Sam. 6; Nu. 4:1-15). The leprous Naaman thought the rivers back home were better than the old river Jordan (II Kings. 5). Jeroboam thought that going to Dan and Bethel to worship was just as good as going up to Jerusalem to worship (I Kings 12). The scribes and Pharisees thought that if a person offered corban (that is, a gift dedicated to God) he was released from his duty to care for his parents; but Jesus pointed out that such was a rejection of the commandment of God (Matt. 15:3-7; Mark 7: 9-13). Saul of Tarsus thought he was following God’s way by persecuting the early church, but he was wrong (Acts 26:9-11).

Men today still think that they know better than God. But the gospel today, tomorrow and until time shall be no more is the power of God unto salvation, nothing more, nothing less. The gospel is that which draws men to the Father (John 6:44-45). However, man thinks otherwise. Human creeds and missionary societies are men’s ways of trying to improve on God’s way. It cannot be done. Churches may offer food, fun and games, hoping to draw the crowds; but all such are indications of a lack of faith in Paul’s statement that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

Observe, too, that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to all them who believe. It has no power to save one who does not believe. “Believeth” is not faith only, but it is an obedient faith. Salvation is offered to all who obey (Heb. 5:8-9).

Friends, if men are not satisfied with the gospel in all its purity, then there is nothing else we have to offer. The world can entice people with other things, but it cannot offer that which can save our souls, the gospel of Jesus Christ. Let us preach it and live it.

Ben Vick, Jr. from *The Informer*

BIRTHDAY

Ed Hanson, 05-26.

ILL

Sunday: Chris Edwards and Dave Parish. **Wednesday:** Chris Edwards, Monica Nemechek and Dave Parish. Dave Parish had outpatient treatments at Shawnee Mission Medical Center last week.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

The Hanson's and the Scott's were out of town visiting last Sunday. Melissa Cole was in Osage, KS Sunday night. Monica Nemechek left for Los Angeles on business Sunday afternoon and returned Wednesday. Wilba Hopkins is in Neosho, Missouri with relatives this weekend for a graduation.

PHOTO DIRECTORY

Steve Brown will be producing a directory with pictures of each family. He will be taking photos during the month of May. All are encouraged to come prepared for your family picture.

AREA EVENT

The church at Blue Springs will be holding their Gospel Meeting May 20-23 with Tyler Young. Check the bulletin board for times and details.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 41; Sunday PM, 32; Wednesday PM, 32.

Those To Serve

May 20, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Brown

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
PRESIDE.....Jeremy Keifer
ASSIST.....David Parish
ASSIST.....Allen Scott
CLOSING PRAYER.....Jared Nelson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
CLOSING PRAYER.....Steve Brown
LORD'S SUPPER.....Jeremy Keifer

WEDNESDAY 23rd

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
INVITATIONJared Nelson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher
Phone: (913) 764-2325
E-mail: olathecoc@sbcglobal.net

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