

the Scriptures do so “unto their own destruction” (2 Peter 3:16); those who follow the false teachers who “pervert the gospel of Christ” are “removed from him” (Gal. 1:6,7); those who do not love the truth (2 Thess. 2:10); those who are deceived by any of the above (2 Peter 2:1-3; Mat. 15:14). And those who leave the Word of God, who cease “walking in the light” (1 John 1:7) and go back into the sins of the world will be lost eternally. Friends, let us all love God’s Word which is able to save our souls (James 1:21).

Now let us look briefly at the gospel itself. We know that God is omnipotent (all powerful) and also that “God is love” (1 John 4:8). Surely we recognize “love” as the underlying motive or detonator of the gospel (cp. John 3:16). We see the power of the love of God in that it “lifted” Christ upon the cross to save the world from sin. Jesus said, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me” (John 12:32). Jesus was “raised” from the grave also by the power of God (cp. Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:4).

We find the gospel in its simplest form in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4: the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus our Savior. The ultimate benefitting power of the gospel for mankind is the saving of his soul, for which Christ died. It is by the same power that “raised” Christ from the tomb that “lifts” the obedient up out of the watery grave of baptism free from sin and condemnation to a new life, a new creature in Christ (Acts 2:38; Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:4; 2 Cor. 5:17). Think about it: The power of the gospel is able to save sinners from a devil’s hell. The “lifting” ability and “influence” the gospel has is very great and wonderful in the lives of all people.

Are **you** ready? Have **you** obeyed the gospel of our dear Lord (Rom. 1:16; 2 Thess. 1:7-9)? Are **you** prepared for that heavenly home? Will **you** be influenced by the power of the gospel in every way?

The power of God unto salvation is the gospel of Christ. But the choice of a better life now and in eternity is **yours**. Please make the right choice. Allow the gospel to mold you and make you after His perfect will. Please contact us for a personal study. ♥

Note: The *Words of Life* (WOL) and the *Sound Words* (SW) bulletins are posted on my website around the 10th of each month. More articles can be viewed there. We are also putting the subjects in topical order. These bulletins can be sent by mail or email. Let us know if you would like to receive them.



“Holding forth the word of life”

WOL

(Phil 2:16 cp. John 6:63, 68)

WOL

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THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

by Perry Sexton

In the physical realm, power is measured in various ways. For example: electric power in watts; engines in horsepower and water pumps in gallons per minute and lift, etc. Political power is measured by influence of individuals or nations.

When it comes to the power of the gospel it is beyond measure or comprehension because its underlying force is the infinite God of Heaven. Paul said, “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” (Rom. 1:16). This is why the “gospel” is to be preached to every creature (Mark 16:15).

Even though we cannot fully understand or comprehend the power of the gospel, we can at least begin to realize its power and be saved through it. The Greek word for power in Romans 1:16 is DUNAMIS. This is the word from which our English word dynamite comes. Thus we perhaps can get an idea why the Holy Spirit chose this particular word when describing the “gospel of Christ.” It is the POWER (dunamis) of God unto salvation!

A warning is in order concerning the dynamite of God. Just like our physical dynamite is very useful when used correctly and potentially deadly when mishandled, the gospel when mishandled is very destructive – eternally so! Consider 2 Thess. 1:8-9, “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.” Those who “wrest” or twist (cont. page 4)

You Should Know:

The gospel is of the kingdom (Matt. 4:23; 24:14).

The gospel is to be preached to all people (Mark 16:15).

The gospel is to be believed (Mark 1:15; 16:15,16).

The gospel must be obeyed (2 Thess. 1:8).

We are to be begotten of the gospel (1 Cor. 4:15).

We can hinder the gospel (1 Cor. 9:12). Sanballat is alive and well today (cp. Neh. 6).

The Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel (1 Cor. 9:14).

Many are blinded so as not to see the truth of the gospel (2 Cor. 4:4).

There is only one true gospel (Gal. 1:6-9).

And this gospel is “certified” and provable (Gal. 1:11; 1 Thess. 5:21).

We are to walk according to the gospel (Gal. 2:14).

The gospel is to be defended (Phil. 1:17).

The gospel saves (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

One is lost without obeying the gospel (2 Thess. 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17).

The gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16 cp. Mark 16:15,16). Have you experienced this power (Col. 2:12)?

The Gospel Has The Power To:

- ✓ Lift the drunkard out of the ditch
- ✓ Turn the covetous to charitable
- ✓ Call out of the world His glorious church
- ✓ Affect the unrespectable to be respectable
- ✓ Reform the adulterers and fornicators
- ✓ Cause the thief to steal no more
- ✓ Make true worshipers out of idolaters
- ✓ Cleanse the impure and make pure
- ✓ Provoke all unto good works
- ✓ Compel the fearful to be brave soldiers
- ✓ Convince the lazy to be good and hard workers
- ✓ Persuade the unstable to stalwart
- ✓ Change liars into speakers of truth
- ✓ Convey extortionists to be charitable
- ✓ Direct the ignorant to be teachers of truth
- ✓ Transform the hateful into loveable
- ✓ Lead revilers to praise God
- ✓ Shape idleness into fruitfulness
- ✓ Mold children of Satan into children of God
- ✓ Urge the base to uprightness
- ✓ Modify the useless to a profitable servant
- ✓ Induce the double minded to singleness
- ✓ Alter the disagreeable to be pleasant
- ✓ Incite busybodies to be bodies that are busy
- ✓ Motivate faithlessness to zealous fidelity
- ✓ Sway the unkind and rude to be polite
- ✓ Elevate the proud to the higher state of humility
- ✓ Carry workers of darkness to the light
- ✓ Influence not only individuals but the nation
- ✓ Train the overly anxious to not worry
- ✓ Bring your faith to fruition
- ✓ Transport you home to glory

Rom. 1:16 – **POWER** – Heb. 4:12