

The Power of the Gospel

Romans 1.16

"I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome.

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." Romans 1.14-16

Paul makes three strong statements about his desire to preach the gospel: I am obligated, I am eager, and I am not ashamed. One reason these are so striking is that they are in direct antithesis to the attitude of many in the contemporary church. So many today see evangelism as optional and feel that in spreading the gospel they are doing God a favor. Coupled with this is the truth is that we haven't begun to comprehend the limitless power of God. There is a power that is available to us; it would be a tragedy not to be aware of it.

The Power of God Demonstrated In Christ's Resurrection

"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God -- the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 1.1-4

Acts 2.22-33; Psalm 16.8-11

"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection..." Philippians 3.10

The Power of God Demonstrated In the Gospel

We, like Paul, not only want but need to experience that power. And the implication of Christ's resurrection is that we can. Because the power of God was manifested in the resurrection of Christ, we now can have confidence in the power of God to save us.

God is at work where the message of the gospel is shared. It is his message concerning his Son and the salvation he purchased on our behalf. Notice several important truths about this gospel.

First, the Gospel is Centered in a Person – Jesus Christ

"Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15.1-4

Second, the Gospel Addresses Our Deepest Need

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Third, the Reach of the Gospel is Universal

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

And finally, We Are Responsible to the Gospel

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.