

The Power of the Gospel to Destitute Man August 2nd & 3rd, 2014

Romans 1:16-17

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in [the gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”

As we embrace the call given to us to proclaim the gospel of salvation to others, is very important to recognize the amazing truth of this Scripture. Paul declares to us that the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. When we as Christians comprehend the reality of the gospel, to some extent the proclamation of it becomes a big challenge. According to Paul there were plenty of reasons for many to be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Why it is that Paul declares that he is *not* ashamed of the gospel?

The Power of the Gospel Reveals Truth.

The Gospel is a scandalous truth to the sinner because it reveals the depravity that exists in people’s lives.

- When we look at the book of Romans, Paul, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, from the first to the last chapter in a systematic way, explains clearly the foundation of the Christian faith. What Paul is doing is confronting sin in the life of his hearers.
- Exposing sin was not different for Paul than it is for us today, it is a difficult task. Yet this is the beginning of the proclamation of the gospel modeled by Jesus.

Mark 1:14-15 “Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’”

- In our culture, it is a *shame* to confront people’s sin in our days. When did we become so sensitive to the culture around us and decide it was better not to mention that the culture in the world is completely opposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
- As Christians, we do such an injustice when we don’t preach against sin!
- The preaching of the gospel always brings out the depravity of man, the righteousness of God, and therefore the necessity of forgiveness, justification, repentance, grace, mercy, propitiation and confession.

Proverbs 17:15 “He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the Lord.”

The Gospel exposed the deceitfulness and wickedness of every culture and every ideology known in Paul’s time.

- During Paul’s life, the message of the Gospel never changed. The Gospel was an unbelievable and scandalous proclamation; therefore people around Paul either repented or rejected him with fury.
- In Athens, Paul confronted their religion and in the end he basically said that they were all wrong.

📖 Acts 17:22-32

f The gospel exposed their religion by pointing to the objects of their worship, and then it proclaimed the creator, the self-sufficiency of God and our dependency on His provision. Paul then commands all men to repent because judgment is coming.

The Gospel is an unchangeable truth that needs to be proclaimed in our time.

- We live in a culture where almost every punishable offense can be justified, therefore the view of justice is changing. It is necessary that we remind people of the unchanging goodness and severity of God!

The Power of the Gospel Offers Justification

📖 Romans 3:23-28

- The Gospel rejects human performance as means for justification; our performance before the eyes of the Lord is deficient and poor.
Psalm 130:3-4 "If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared."
- Jesus is the only way to salvation.
- The Gospel contradicted everything Paul had achieved on his own.

The Power of the Gospel Provides Freedom

- Salvation is freedom! Freedom from the grip of sin and its consequences, freedom from the judgment to come and from eternal condemnation.
Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
- The power of the Gospel is effective only for those that are desperately seeking divine help.
- The Gospel is not relevant to some in our culture. It is appealing to someone only if he realizes that, according to the Bible, in his human nature and personal achievements he is under divine condemnation.
- The Gospel is good news only to those who realize they are in a very destitute condition.
- Only when freedom is a reality in our lives, will we persevere in His truth and proclaim His Gospel!

John 8:31-32

***"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him,
'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and
you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'"***

Endnote:

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