

Power of God Unto Salvation

(Rom 1:16-17)

- Read Romans chapter 8

I. Paul has told us several reasons why he is not ashamed of the gospel

- A) Because it is good news
- B) Because it provides a full salvation
- C) Because it is God's ordained plan

II. Because it is the power of God unto salvation

A) What does Paul mean by this?

1. This is a powerful work and activity of God Himself, and yet the gospel is clearly identified by Paul as part of the power

- i. What the gospel is not:

- a) Gospel isn't words about power, the gospel is a power itself
- b) Gospel isn't just a description of power, it plays an active part
- c) Gospel isn't a telling to us of what power we must exert to be saved, nor is it simply a command to believe
- d) Gospel isn't a message to trust God's power, the gospel is a part of the power
- e) Gospel isn't a statement about what powerful thing God has done, and now we have a choice

- ii. What the gospel is:

- a) God works out His salvation, planned before the foundation of the world, in us through the gospel
 - 1) 1 Cor 1:18-21- Preaching of cross (foolishness of the thing preached) is the power of God
 - 2) 2 Cor 5:5- He that hath "wrought us"
 - 3) Eph 1:19- His power working in us
 - 4) Eph 2:10- His workmanship (God's power working salvation in us)
 - 5) Phil 1:6- He which hath begun a good work in you
 - 6) Phil 2:13- God worketh in us
 - 7) 1 Pet 1:5- Kept by the power of God unto salvation (certain and sure)

B) Paul is saying "I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is how God works out His great eternal plan and purpose in us"

1. Eph 1:10- Here is what the Lord is doing

2. Rom 8:28-30- Gospel is the power whereby God calls us, justifies us and glorifies us, so how could we be ashamed of it?

i. Man cannot stop this power nor prevent it

C) I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is effectual

1. But I am ashamed of all my failed remedies and man's attempts at salvation, they have all come to nought

i. Rom 8:3- This includes law-keeping for salvation

a) Rom 3:19-20- By the Law is the knowledge of sin

1) Knowledge of the problem is not power to fix the problem

2) Paul is not ashamed because his message isn't like the Law he once preached

b) Rom 8

1) "If God be for us"

2) "Who can lay anything to the charge of God's elect"

3) "Who can separate us from the love of God"

4) "I am persuaded (absolutely certain)"

5) "We conquer in tribulation"

(a) These kind of statement caused people to say, "oh, what about the Jews then"

(1) We must understand the doctrine of the remnant

(2) Rom 11:29- "Gifts and calling of God without repentance"

c) John 10:27-29- "No one shall pluck them out"

d) Heb 7:25- "Save to the uttermost"

2. Rom 1:16- Gospel is not contingent or uncertain

III. How is the gospel "power"

A) Paul does declare it is itself a power, he doesn't say the "the gospel is about the power of God", although that would be true

1. 1 Thess 2:13- Effectually worketh in us

2. James 1:18-21- Begat us by word of truth, word able to save souls

3. 1 Pet 1:23- Born of the word of God

4. John 17:17- Sanctified by the truth, thy word is truth

5. Eph 5:25-26- Washing of water by the word

6. Acts 20:32- Word is able to build us up

B) 2 Cor 3:6- Paul doesn't mean the "letter" but the "spirit"

1. He isn't referring to a form of "believism", or a sinner's prayer

i. 1 Thess 1:5- Not in word only but in power

ii. 1 Cor 2:5- Not in man's wisdom, but in the power of God

2. Paul is referring to some formal act, or profession, neither is it mechanical
3. What Paul is referring to is that the gospel is the method by which Father, Son and Holy Spirit go about Their work
 - i. All the Father's riches and grace, made available through the work of Christ, come to us by the Holy Spirit through the word
 - a) Example- Greek word for "power" was also used as **"prescription"** by many ancient Greek writers, such as Aretas, Galens, etc.
 - 1) The gospel is God's prescription for sin, and the only one
 - 2) But a prescription alone doesn't cure, it must be used
 - 3) And yet there is truly power in that prescription
 - 4) Even in a placebo prescription there is power
 - b) Rom 1:14- Combine this idea with the prescription, and we can see what Paul truly means
 - 1) "I am not ashamed of this prescription, it is 100% tried and true and the absolute only cure"
 - 2) Imagine being cured of a deadly disease after years of torment, and then seeing someone with that same illness, and then you choose to simply walk by
 - (a) You wouldn't need to know their name, their social status, nor their proclivity to advice, neither their temperament, you know the only thing about them that matters, and that is the diagnosis of their disease!