

The Power of the Word Preached

1 Cor. 1:18-24

Introduction:

- A. Many powerful forces and people in world
 - 1. The power of nature – Earthquakes, tornados, hurricanes.
 - 2. The power of nations – U.S. Military, weaponry, influence.
- B. No greater power on earth than gospel message (Rom. 1:16)
 - 1. "Power" from "dunamis" - dynamite, dynamo
 - 2. All other powers world have never saved one soul.
- C. Corinthians knew first hand the power the gospel message.
 - 1. Turned immoral idol worshipers into upright saints. (1 Cor. 6:9-11).
 - 2. Turned tradition-bound Jewish leaders into Christians. (v. 14; Acts 18:8).
- D. We can use this power to help ourselves and others (1 Tim. 4:16)
 - 1. Study it.
 - 2. Live it.
 - 3. Preach/teach it.
 - 4. Support it.
- E. Christians need to understand the greatness of the specific powers of the gospel preached.

Discussion:

I. It Has the Power to Save Men and Women from a Life of Sin.

- A. Power to convict a sinner of his sin.
 - 1. Scriptures and gospel preaching designed to convict (reprove). (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 4:2).
 - 2. Holy Spirit convicts through gospel preaching. (Jno. 16:8; Acts 2:36-38; 24:25).
- B. Power to produce faith in the Savior from sin.. (Jno. 20:30,31; Rom. 10:8,17).
 - 1. Faith that leads to repentance of sin. (Luke 13:3).
 - 2. Faith that leads to the remission of sins in baptism. (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16)
- C. Power to produce abstinence from sin. (Tit. 2:11,12; 1 Jno. 2:1).
- D. Power to recover Christians overcome by sin. (1 John 1:9; 2:1; Acts 8:22).

II. It Has the Power to Save Men and Women from a Life of Despair.

- A. Gives life real meaning. (cf. 1 Cor. 15:32, 58; Titus 2:11-13).
- B. Gives proper perspective to life's problems (1 Cor. 7:31; 2 Cor. 4:18).
- C. Gives hope of a glorious future. (Heb. 6:18-20; 2 Cor. 5:1-4; Rev. 2:10).

III. It Has the Power to Save Men and Women from Eternal Death.

- A. By taking away the cause of eternal death - sin. (Jas. 5:20; Rom. 6:23).
- B. Gives them an inheritance that fades not away (Acts 20:32; 1 Pet. 1:3-5, 23-25)

Conclusion:

- A. If your neighbors, loved ones, and friends saved, it will be by word preached.
- B. If your neighbors, loved ones, and friends saved it will be after heard gospel.
 - 1. You can teach him personally if you have the ability and opportunity.
 - 2. You can bring him to one who can teach him - regular services and meetings.
 - 3. You can carry one to him that can teach him.
 - 4. You can support those who teach - morally and financially.