

THE GOSPEL IS GOD'S POWER FOR YOUR SALVATION

Romans 1:16 "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"

When you read or hear the word Gospel, what comes to your mind? You may answer much like the dictionary: "a set of principles or beliefs," "a thing that is absolutely true such as in the statement e.g., 'it is the Gospel truth;'" and "the teaching or revelation of Jesus Christ." You may also have learned that the word Gospel means "good news." Or, you may quote John 3:16 which is known as the Gospel in a nut shell "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

A Concordia Self-Study Bible note states: "The Gospel is not simply words; the Spirit works faith and brings us salvation through it. God does this work, not us. "Justification (God declaring a sinner forgiven for Christ's sake) happens only through the Word' of the Gospel." Romans 1:16 says ". . .for it (the Gospel) is the power of God for salvation." The Gospel has this power for your salvation and the faith God has given you in Christ Jesus receives its power. God gives the Gospel the power to teach, motivate, and create salvation in those who hear or read it. God sends His Spirit to give the Gospel its power to change hearts from unbelief to faith in Jesus Christ.

The Gospel is not universally accepted or believed. That was true at the time the New Testament was written, "to the Jews (the Gospel) was a stumbling-block and to the Greeks foolishness." (1 Co 1:23) A recent 2020 PEW survey found that less than 20% of Americans believe what is said in John 3:16 is true, namely that faith in Jesus is necessary for salvation. The Gospel is a stumbling block to many, many people today.

What matters is the Gospels power in your heart and life. Romans 1:16 says the Gospel **IS** God's power for your salvation. What matters is what you believe God's message is to you through the Gospel: ". . . whoever believes in Him (Jesus) should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) The truth of God's Gospel is: ". . . there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, work faith in my heart to receive the Gospel is God's truth regarding my salvation by His undeserved love for me through Christ Jesus, His Son, My Lord. Amen.

God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood, Your baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

Glory to God the Father, Son And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!
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