

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - April 20, 2023

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Title: "The Beauty Power and Glory of Salvation"

Scripture Reference: Romans 1:16-17

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written. The just shall live by faith."

I. Introduction

A. After Paul had gained the attention of his readers by explaining the purpose of his writing and then introducing himself (Romans 1:1-15), he now states the thesis or the theme of this epistle.

B. These two verses (Vv16-17) express the theme of the book of Romans, and they contain the most life-transforming truth that God has put into the hand of men.

C. To understand and positively respond to this truth is to have your time and eternity completely changed.

II. Exposition [Part I] - Unashamed Boldness (V16a)

A. The introductory phrase For I am not ashamed of the gospel is the mark of unashamed boldness.

B. Paul was imprisoned in Philippi, chased out of Thessalonica, smuggled out of Damascus and Berea, laughed at in Athens, considered a fool in Corinth, and declared a blasphemer and lawbreaker in Jerusalem.

C. He was stoned and left for dead at Lystra. Some pagans of Paul's day branded Christianity as atheism because it believed in only one God, and Christians were labeled as being cannibalistic because of a misunderstanding of the Lord's Supper.

D. However, the Jewish religious leaders did not intimidate Paul nor did the learned and influential pagans of Ephesus, Athens, and Corinth.

E. The Apostle Paul was eager to preach and teach the gospel in Rome, the capital of the pagan empire that ruled virtually all the known world.

F. Paul was never deterred by opposition, never disheartened by criticism, and never ashamed, for any reason of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

G. Although the gospel was then, and still is today, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, it is the only way God has provided for the salvation of man, and Paul was both overjoyed and strengthened by the privilege of proclaiming its truth and power wherever he went.

H. When we have the opportunity to speak for Christ, many often do not. We know that the gospel can be intimidating, and repulsive to the natural, unsaved person and to the ungodly spiritual system that now dominates the world.

I. The gospel exposes man's sin, wickedness, depravity, and lostness. To the sinful heart of unbelievers, the gospel does not appear to be good news but bad. For that reason, fear of men and of not being able to handle their arguments is probably the single greatest snare in witnessing.

J. Paul's greatest passion was to see men saved. He was not

concerned about his personal comfort, popularity, or reputation. He offered no compromise of the gospel because he knew that it is the only power available that can change lives for eternity.

K. In Verses 16-17, Paul uses four key words that are crucial to understanding the gospel of Jesus Christ: power, salvation, faith, and righteousness.

III. Exposition [Part II] - Power (Romans 1:16b)

"for it is the power of God."

A. The Greek word *Dunamis* (power) is the term from which our English word dynamite is derived. The gospel carries with it the omnipotence (i.e., power) of God, whose **power** alone is sufficient to save men from sin and give them eternal life.

B. People have an innate desire to be changed. They want to look better, feel better, have more money, more power, more influence. Consider this - The premise of all advertising is that people want to change in some way or another, and the job of the advertisers is to convince them that their product or service will add a desired dimension to their lives.

C. Many people want to be changed inwardly, in a way that will make them feel less guilty and more content, as they look to a host of programs, philosophies, and other promises to meet those desires.

D. Many man-made schemes succeed in making people feel better about themselves, but none of them have the power to remove the sin that brings the feelings of guilt and discontent. Nor can those schemes and ideas make man right with God.

E. Through the prophet Jeremiah, the Lord said, "Can the

Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil." (Jer. 13:23).

F. It is not within man's power to change his own nature.

G. The Bible makes it clear that men cannot be spiritually changed or saved by good works, by the church, by ritual, or by any other human means.

H. Every believer, no matter how gifted and mature, has human limitations and weaknesses. Our minds, bodies, and perceptions are imperfect. Yet, incredibly, God uses us as channels of His redeeming and sustaining power when we serve Him obediently.

I. Scripture testifies to God's glorious power (Ex. 15:6), His irresistible power (Deut. 32:39), His mighty power (Job 9:4), His strong power (Ps. 89:13), His effectual power (Isa. 43:13), and His sovereign power (Rom. 9:21).

IV. Exposition [Part III] - Salvation (V16c)

"unto salvation" (v16c).

A. The greatest manifestation of God's power is that of bringing men to salvation, of transforming man's nature and giving him eternal life through Jesus Christ.

B. Paul uses the noun **soteria** (**salvation**) at least nineteen times, five of them in Romans, and he uses the corresponding verb twenty-nine times, eight of them in Romans.

C. The basic idea behind the term is that of deliverance, or rescue, and the point here is that the power of God in salvation rescues people from the ultimate penalty of sin, which is spiritual death extended into tormented eternal separation from God.

D. Salvation through Christ is God's powerful hand that He has

let down to lift men up. His salvation brings deliverance from the spiritual infection of "this untoward (crooked, perverse) generation (Acts 2:40).

V. Exposition [Part IV] - Faith (V16d)

"to every one that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

A. The next key word regarding the gospel is that of **faith**. The sovereign power of God working through the gospel brings salvation to **every one that believes**.

B. The Greek word *Pisteuo* (**believes**) carries the basic idea of trusting in, relying on, having faith in. Virtually all of life requires a natural faith. But what Paul has in mind here is a supernatural faith, produced by God - a "faith that is not of yourselves but the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8).

C. Eternal life is both gained and lived by faith from God in Jesus Christ. "For by grace are ye saved through faith," (Eph. 2:8). Paul tells us that God does not first ask men to behave but to believe.

D. Salvation is not merely professing to be a Christian, nor is it baptism, moral reform, going to church, receiving sacraments, or living a life of self-discipline and sacrifice.

E. Salvation comes through giving up on one's own goodness, works, knowledge, and wisdom and trusting in the finished, perfect work of Christ.

F. Salvation has no national, racial, or ethnic barrier but is given to every person who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

G. It was to the Jew first chronologically because Jews are

God's specially chosen people, through whom He ordained salvation to come (John 4:22). The Messiah came first to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matt. 15:24).

Points:

- 1) Thank You Lord for including me, you, us in Your Plan of Salvation.
- 2) All who believe may be saved. Only those who truly believe **will** be saved!

VI. Exposition [Part V] - Righteousness (V 17)

"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

A. Faith activates the divine power that brings salvation, and in that sovereign act the righteousness of God is revealed.

B. **From faith to faith** seems to parallel "to every one that believeth" in Verse 16.

C. Salvation by His grace working through man's faith was always God's plan, as Paul here implies in quoting from Habakkuk 2:4, "as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

D. There is emphasis here on the continuity of faith. It is not a one-time act, but a way of life.

E. The true believer made righteous will live in faith all of his life. Theologians have called this "**The perseverance of the saints**" (cf. Col. 1:22-23; Heb. 3:12-14).

F. What God has done for us in and through the Lord Jesus Christ demonstrates His Beauty, Power, and Glory in the marvelous provision of Salvation.

I sincerely pray that you have been and are being blessed through studying this lesson.

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the passages that follow by filling in the blank spaces. Each passage was taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

"For by _____ are ye _____ through _____; and that not of _____: it is the _____ of God: Not of _____, lest any man should _____."

[Ephesians 2:8,9]

"But as many as _____ him, to them gave he _____ to become the _____ of God, even to them that _____ on his _____."

[John 1:12]

"For we are saved by _____: but _____ that is seen is not _____: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet _____ for? But if we _____ for that we see not, then do we with _____ wait for it."

[Romans 8:24,25]

"_____ belongeth unto the Lord: the _____ is upon thy _____."

[Psalm 3:8]

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not _____ with
_____ things, as silver and gold, from your vain
_____ received by tradition from your fathers; But
with the _____ blood of _____, as of a lamb without
_____ and without _____."

[1 Peter 1:18,19]

In the Master's Service

Pastor Austin