

The Power of God unto Salvation

Romans 1:16

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Shepherd's Community Church

I. Introduction – Romans 1:16

- a. The Gospel Results in Change – Rom 1:7-8 _____
- b. Gospel is Sourced in God – Rom 1:1 _____
- c. Gospel Concerns God's Son – Rom 1:2-3 _____

II. Why Paul Has Confidence in the Gospel?

- a. Paul's Claim that he is not Ashamed _____
 - b. Why Does Paul State he is not Ashamed? _____
 - c. The Gospel is the Power of God unto Salvation _____
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III. What will the Gospel Produce?

- a. Salvation From...
 - i. Guilt of Sin – Eph 1:7; Col 1:14-15 _____
 - ii. Pollution of Sin – Rom 6:6-8 _____
 - iii. Slavery to Sin – Rom 6:20, 22 _____
 - iv. Punishment of Sin
 - 1. Alienation from God – Eph 2:11-13 _____
 - 2. The Wrath of God – Rom 5:9 _____
 - 3. Everlasting Death – Eph 2:5-6 _____
- b. Salvation To...
 - i. Righteousness – Rom 3:21-26 _____
 - ii. Holiness – Rom 6:1-4 _____
 - iii. Freedom – II Cor 3:17 _____
 - iv. Blessedness _____

IV. Who Needs Salvation?

- a. Everyone (All People without Distinction) – Rom 1:16 _____

V. Is there a Condition?

- a. The Gospel is Effective for All Who Believe – Rom 1:16 _____
- b. Three Elements of True Saving Faith
 - i. Intellectual Understanding – Heb 11:6 _____
 - ii. Assent – Heb 11:13 _____
 - iii. Trust – Heb 11:13 _____

VI. Conclusion

- a. Application to Believer _____

- b. Application to Unbeliever _____

Matthew 22:42 – What Think Ye of Christ?

One of the greatest tests of your soul's health is, What think ye of Christ? How can a believer be assured of his/her salvation? Well, how you answer the question laid before us in Matthew 22:42 will help you determine the state of your soul. Charles Spurgeon gives the following test:

If you have thought little of Christ, if you have been content to live without His presence, if you have cared little for His honor, if you have been neglectful of His laws, then I know that your soul is sick.

Conversely, if your first thought is how you can honor Christ, if your desire is to please Him in word and deed, if you think higher of Him than yourself, then you can be assured that your soul is healthy. One of the beautiful features of the gospel is that it results in change. Anyone that has come in contact with the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ has experienced a change in their life. When God saves an individual, He removes the heart of stone (that is unresponsive to the Law of God) and replaces it with a heart of flesh (that is responsive to the Law of God). According to Hebrews 8:10, when God saves us, He puts His Law in our minds and writes them on our hearts. As a result, believers are a new creation. Therefore, a believer can't help but to make Christ preeminent in their lives. Beloved, have you experienced such a change?

Some forms of theology teach that believers should never question their salvation; however, this goes against the clear teachings of scriptures. Peter instructs us to make our call and election sure (II Peter 1:10). And I John teaches us how we can validate our call and election. John wrote I John so that we might know we have eternal life (I John 5:13). And within this letter, John gives us three tests to determine whether we have experienced salvation. These are: 1. Do we keep his commands (or do we look for loopholes to justify our sin), 2. Do we love those that Christ has saved (or do we look for ways to avoid the people of Christ), and 3. Do we love the world? How you answer those questions tells you all you need to know about the condition of your soul.

Let me encourage you to honestly answer the questions that have been outlined above. Do not let the sun set this day without confronting these questions. If you find that you are failing in one or more of these areas, then go to Christ, confess your sin, and repent. He has promised to forgive you (I John 1:9). Seek out your first love by searching Him out in the scriptures. Remind yourself of what was paid to secure your salvation. Since Christ has redeemed your soul, purpose within yourself to live a life that seeks only to please Him. Allow no compromise when it comes to your relationship with Christ. Make Him the Lord of your life and give Him all the glory, because He will not accept second place or share His glory with anyone else.