

# THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

by Perry Sexton

In the physical realm, power is measured in various ways. For example: electric power in watts; engines in horsepower and water pumps in gallons per minute and lift, etc. Political power is measured by influence of individuals or nations.

When it comes **to the power of the gospel** it is beyond measure or comprehension because its underlying force is the infinite God of Heaven. Paul said, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Rom. 1:16). This is why the “gospel” is to be preached to every creature (Mark 16:15).

Even though we cannot fully understand or comprehend the power of the gospel, we can at least begin to realize its power and be saved through it. The Greek word for power in Romans 1:16 is DUNAMIS. This is the word from which our English word dynamite comes. Thus we perhaps can get an idea why the Holy Spirit chose this particular word when describing the “gospel of Christ”: It is the POWER (dunamis) of God unto salvation!

**A warning is in order** concerning the dynamite of God. Just like our physical dynamite is very useful when used correctly and potentially deadly when mishandled, the gospel when mishandled is very destructive – eternally so! Consider: 2 Thes. 1:8-9 "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;" Those who “wrest” or twist the Scriptures do so “unto their own destruction” (2 Pet 3:16); those who follow the false teachers who “pervert the gospel of Christ” are “removed from him” (Gal. 1:6,7); those who do not love the truth (2 Thess. 2:10); those who are deceived by any of the above (2 Pet. 2:1-3; Mat. 15:14). And those who leave the word of God, who cease “walking in the light” (I John 1:7) and go back into the sins of the world will be lost eternally. Friends, let us all love God’s word which is able to save our souls (Jam. 1:21).

Now let us look briefly at the gospel itself. We know that God is omnipotent (all powerful) and also that “God is love” (1 John 4:8). Surely we recognize “love” as the underlying motive or detonator of the gospel (cf. John 3:16). We see the power of the love of God in that it “lifted” Christ upon the cross to save the world from sin. Jesus said, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me” (John 12:32). Jesus was “raised” from the grave also by the power of God (cf. Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:4).

**We find the gospel in its simplest form in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4:** the **death, burial and resurrection** of Jesus our Savior. The ultimate benefitting power of the gospel for mankind is the saving of his soul, for which Christ died. It is by the same power that “raised” Christ from the tomb that “lifts” the obedient up out of the watery grave of baptism free from sin and condemnation to a new life, a new creature in Christ (Acts 2:38; Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:4; 2 Cor. 5:17). Think about it: The power of the gospel is able to save sinners from a devil’s hell. The “lifting” ability and “influence” the gospel has is very great and wonderful in the lives of all people.

**The gospel has the power to save YOU.**

