

Why Is The Gospel God's **Power**?

by Wayne Goff

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" Romans 1:16.

The Gospel is God's power to save because while it leaves intact the *human will* and the *ability to choose*, it still appeals to man's head, mind and heart. It gives us **facts** to believe, **commands** to be obeyed, and **promises** to be enjoyed. Man can choose to accept, believe and obey Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior unto eternal life or reject it unto eternal condemnation (Jn. 3:36).

Sadly, man is bent on doing his own will in his own way, believing that he is doing what is best for him! He may not be maliciously or willfully turning away from God, but he is hurting himself just the same. *"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts"* (Prov. 21:2). Can man fool himself? Absolutely. How often have we *thought* of ourselves in a certain way, only to be told by numerous people that we are **not** that way at all? Self-deception is the worst kind of deception. We are fooling ourselves to our own hurt.

But once again, the Gospel is God's power to save that person who finally *"comes to himself"* (Lk. 15:17) and realizes that the way of man is not in himself (Jer. 10:23). God is lovingly, patiently, eternally standing at the door of our hearts (Rev. 3:20), gently knocking until that time when we finally realize that our heavenly Father knows best. And when we **open** the door, what a wonderful reunion of hearts, minds and spirits it is!

The gospel is not designed for *perfect* people, but for people who want *a second chance*, and who want Divine guidance for their lives (Rom. 8:5, 9). God does not **force** Himself upon anyone. He does not **compel** others to believe in Him, love Him, or serve Him. But for the person who **chooses** the Lord, how rich in blessings is that person, and how **fulfilled** is his life. *"If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself"* (Jn. 7:17, KJV).

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