

The Gospel's Power

by Bill Crews

The apostle Paul was a man of great ability and intellect. His formal training was very imposing, and his reaction to that training placed him at the very top (Acts 22:3; 26:24; Gal. 1:14). He could speak Hebrew and Greek (Acts 21:37; 22:2), and perhaps Aramaic also. Surely such as he could be eloquent and impressive in his selection of words. But his apostleship, his authority did not depend upon any of these things. When he preached and wrote, the words were the words taught not by his own wisdom, but by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:10-13). The power to save rested not in his education, his intelligence, his wisdom, his ability to select words, but in the gospel which he preached by the Spirit. He wrote, *"For I make known to you, brethren, as touching the gospel which was preached by me, that it is not after man. For neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came to me through revelation of Jesus Christ"* (Gal. 1:11-12).

Paul said in Romans 1:16, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."* He wrote in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, *"And I, brethren, when I came unto you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."* Then in I Corinthians 3:5-7 Paul made this statement:

"What then is Apollos? and what is Paul? Ministers through whom ye believed; and each as the Lord gave to him. I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."

To God be the credit.

291101