

The Gospel and God's Righteousness (27)

Pastor Eddie Idefonso

Romans 1:1-17

(Continuation from 02/14/16)

C. Paul's Boldness for Christ: Unashamedness of the Gospel, Romans 1:16-17

Romans 1:16-17 (NASB)

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

¹⁷ "For in it *the* **righteousness** of God is revealed from **faith** to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous *man* shall live by faith."

1. It is the *good news* from God Himself (v.16).
2. It is the power of God to save (v.16).
3. It is the revelation of God's righteousness (v.17).

2. (Romans 1:16) Gospel— God, Power of— Salvation: Paul is not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God to save.

Romans 1:16 (NASB)

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

Note **four significant facts.**

1. The word "power" (*dunamis*) means the might, energy, force, and strength that is **within** God.
2. The word "salvation" must be understood and grasped by every person upon earth.
3. God saves all who believe.
4. God saves all nationalities, both Jew and Greek.

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

1. The word "power" (*dunamis*) means the might, energy, force, and strength that is **within** God. The power is "of God," of His very nature. As God, He is the embodiment of power; He possesses all power, that is, omnipotent power, within His Being. He can do and act as He chooses.

The point is this: God has chosen to use His power in a loving way by sending men the "good news," the gospel of salvation. Being all powerful, God could wipe men off the face of the earth, but instead He has chosen to give men the good news of salvation. This tells us a

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critical truth: God's nature is love. He is full of compassion and grace. He is the God of salvation; therefore, He sent the "gospel of Christ" to the world that men might be saved.

Power

for it is the power of God (1:16b)

Romans 1:16 (NASB)

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

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

People have an innate desire to be changed. They want to look better, feel better; have more money, more power, more influence. The premise of all advertising is that people want to change in some way or another and the job of the advertiser is to convince them that his product or service will add a desired dimension to their lives. Many people want to be changed inwardly in a way that will make them feel less guilty and more content, and a host of programs, philosophies, and religions promise to meet those desires. Many man-made schemes succeed in making people feel better about themselves, but the ideas promoted have no power to remove the sin that brings the feelings of guilt and discontent. Nor can those ideas make men right with God. In fact, the more successful such approaches are from their own standpoint, the more they drive people away from God and insulate them from His salvation.

Through Jeremiah, the Lord said, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots? Then you also can do good who are accustomed to do evil" ([Jeremiah 13:23 \(NASB\)](#)). It is not within man's power to change his own nature. In rebuking the Sadducees who tried to entrap Him, Jesus said, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures, or the power of God" ([Matthew 22:29\(NASB\)](#)). Only the power of God is able to overcome man's sinful nature and impart spiritual life.

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. Men cannot be saved even by keeping God's own law which was given to show men their helplessness to meet His standards in their own power. The law was not given to save men but to reveal their sin and thus to drive men to God's saving grace.

Later in Romans, Paul declares man's impotence and God's power, saying, "For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly" ([Romans 5:6 \(NASB\)](#)), and, "For what the law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh" ([Romans 8:3 \(NASB\)](#)). Affirming the same basic truth in different words, Peter wrote believers in Asia Minor: "For you have been born again not of

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seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God” ([1 Peter 1:23 \(NASB\)](#)).