

# The Gospel and God's Righteousness (31)

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Romans 1:1-17

(Continuation from 04/03/16)

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

Romans 1:16-17 (NASB)

<sup>16</sup>“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.”

<sup>17</sup>“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)

<sup>16</sup> 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.

2. The word "salvation" must be understood and grasped by every person upon earth. The hope of the world is God's salvation (see, [Deeper Study # 1, Salvation—Romans 1:16](#) for more discussion).

## DEEPER STUDY # 1

### Romans 1:16 (NASB)

<sup>16</sup> "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."

([Romans 1:16](#)) **Salvation** (*hē sōtēria*): means deliverance, made whole, preservation.

From what does man need to be saved and delivered and preserved? Scripture paints five descriptive pictures of salvation, showing man's great need. (See below [Deeper Study # 2, Salvation—Matthew 1:21](#) for more discussion.)

1. Salvation means deliverance from being lost. Man is pictured as wandering about in the forest of life trying to go someplace, but unable to find his way. He is lost, and if he continues to stumble about through the forest of life, the underbrush and thorns of the forest will sap his strength and prick him to the point that he lies down and dies. His only hope is for someone to notice that he is lost and to begin seeking for him. This is where the glorious gospel of salvation comes in. God sees that man is lost and He sends His Son to seek and to save man.

Salvation means that Christ.....

- a. seeks and saves man from his lost condition.
- b. sets man on the right road that leads him to eternal life.

### Matthew 18:11-12 (NASB) (cp. [Luke 15:4](#)).

<sup>11</sup> ["For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.]

<sup>12</sup> "What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying?"

### [Luke 15:4](#) (NASB)

<sup>4</sup> "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?"

**Luke 19:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup>“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

**John 5:14 (NASB)**

<sup>14</sup>“Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.”

**John 10:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup>“I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

2. Salvation means deliverance from sin. It means deliverance from mistakes, from corrupt ideas and thoughts, from moral impurity and from a crooked and perverse generation.

Sin is like.....

- a. an infection, a disease for which man has no cure.
- b. a master that enslaves and will not let go.
- c. a crooked and perverse world that man cannot straighten out.

Man’s only hope is for someone to discover a cure, someone with the intelligence and power to do it. This is where God steps in with His glorious salvation. God knows all about man's infection and enslavement by sin, all about his crooked and perverse world; so He sends His Son to save man, to cure him and liberate him and straighten out his world.

Salvation means that Christ saves man from the terrible tyranny of sin, from.....

- a. the infection of sin.
- b. the enslavement of sin.
- c. the crooked and perverse world of sin.

Salvation also does something else. It frees man from the pricking and burden of guilt and shame, and it plants within man's soul a deep sense of health and peace with God.

**Matthew 1:21 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup>“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

**Luke 7:50 (NASB)**

<sup>50</sup>“And He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

**John 3:17 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup>“For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

**John 5:34 (NASB)**

<sup>34</sup> “But the testimony which I receive is not from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved.”

**John 5:40 (NASB)**

<sup>40</sup> “And you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

**John 12:47 (NASB)**

<sup>47</sup> “If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.”

**Acts 2:40 (NASB)**

<sup>40</sup> “And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!”

**Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup> “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God

<sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

**2 Thessalonians 2:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> “And with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.”

**2 Timothy 1:9-10 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> “[God] who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

<sup>10</sup> but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

**Titus 3:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.”

3. Salvation means deliverance in the future from all evil and corruption: from aging and wasting away, deterioration and decay, death and hell. It is the complete redemption of man’s spirit and body at the end of the world. It is salvation from the wrath of God—salvation that saves a man from being separated from God eternally. It is the life and exaltation which believers will receive at the final triumph of Jesus Christ. It is the salvation that will keep a man safe and preserve him both in time and eternity.

Man and his world are pictured as having a *seed of corruption* within their very nature, a seed of corruption that eats away causing them to...

- 1) age and waste away.
- 2) deteriorate and decay.
- 3) suffer destruction and die.

Again, man is hopeless. He cannot stop himself and his world from death and destruction, but God can. God can save both man and his world; God can

deliver them from the terrible fate of death and destruction. This is the message of salvation. God loves man and his world and wants to save them, so He sent His Son into the world to save them.

Salvation is...

- 1) the complete redemption of man's body and soul in the future: a redemption that saves man from the process of aging and wasting away, deteriorating and decaying, dying and being condemned to hell.
- 2) the perfect deliverance from the wrath of God: a salvation that saves man from being separated from God eternally.
- 3) the gift of life and exaltation: a salvation that will be given to believers at the final triumph of Jesus Christ.
- 4) the presence of perfect assurance: a salvation of security and preservation both in time and eternity.

**Romans 8:23-24 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> “And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

<sup>24</sup> For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees?”

**1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> “For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>10</sup> who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.”

**2 Timothy 4:18 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> “The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

**1 Peter 1:3-5 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

<sup>4</sup> to *obtain* an inheritance *which* is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

<sup>5</sup> who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

**1 Peter 1:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> “Obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.”

4. Salvation means deliverance from enemies and dangers. Man is pictured as walking in a world lurking with enemy after enemy and danger after danger. Man has to confront all kinds of enemies and dangers that attack both

his body and soul, his mind and spirit. He faces all kinds of problems and difficulties, trials and temptations.

No matter how much he may long for peace and security, he is forced to combat...

- 1) a hostile environment
- 2) a savage world of nature
- 3) an unknown universe
- 4) an uncertain future
- 5) unregulated urges
- 6) inevitable aging and dying
- 7) a lust for more and more (possessions, fame, wealth, power)
- 8) an evil pride and ego
- 9) greed and covetousness
- 10) unpreventable accidents
- 11) dreadful diseases

Man is seen as helpless in overcoming all the enemies and dangers that lurk in the shadows of this world. But God is not helpless—God can *save* man; He can gloriously deliver man as he journeys along the road of life. This is exactly what salvation means. God delivers man from the enemies and dangers that war against him. But note the next paragraph, a crucial point.

Salvation does not mean that God delivers man *from* experiencing difficulty and danger, not in this present world. God does not give a life free from the nature and circumstances of this world. What salvation does is deliver one *through* the difficulties and dangers of life.

Salvation means that...

- 1) God gives *security and peace* of soul, no matter what happens.
- 2) God gives *safety* independent of circumstances and environment.
- 3) God gives *inward strength and courage* to bear the onslaught and attacks of danger.

**Matthew 8:25-27 (NASB)**

<sup>25</sup> “And they came to *Him* and woke Him, saying, “Save *us*, Lord; we are perishing!”

<sup>26</sup> He said to them, “Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm.

<sup>27</sup> The men were amazed, and said, “What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

**Matthew 14:30-31 (NASB)**

<sup>30</sup> “But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he

cried out, "Lord, save me!"

<sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

[Luke 1:69 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>69</sup> "And **[God]** has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of David His servant."

[Luke 1:71 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>71</sup> "Salvation FROM OUR ENEMIES, And FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US."

[Acts 27:34 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>34</sup> "Therefore I encourage you to take some food, for this is for your preservation [salvation], for not a hair from the head of any of you will perish."

[Hebrews 11:7 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> "By faith Noah, being warned by *God* about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."

[2 Peter 3:10-15 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>10</sup> "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

<sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

<sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

<sup>13</sup> But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

<sup>15</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you."

5. Salvation means to make well, to heal, to restore to health, to make whole both physically and mentally.

Man is pictured as a suffering creature, a creature who.....

- 1) gets sick
- 2) becomes diseased
- 3) struggles against deformities
- 4) wears out from aging
- 5) suffers infirmities
- 6) has accidents

Salvation declares that Christ is concerned with man's suffering. Christ saves and delivers man, rescues and restores man in body as well as in spirit. He takes a man who suffers and makes him whole.

**Matthew 9:20-22 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup> "And a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak;

<sup>21</sup> for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch His garment, I will get well."

<sup>22</sup> But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you **well**." At once the woman was made well."

**Mark 10:51-52 (NASB)**

<sup>51</sup> "And answering him, Jesus said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And the blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, *I want* to regain my sight!"

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you **well**." Immediately he regained his sight and *began* following Him on the road."

**Acts 4:9-10 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> "If we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well,

<sup>10</sup> let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this *name* this man stands here before you in **good health**."

**James 5:15 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup> "And the prayer offered in faith **will restore** the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him."