

The All-Sufficiency Of The Gospel

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Rom. 1:16

Rom. 1:16, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*

Here, the Apostle Paul declares that the gospel of Christ is *“the power of God unto salvation”* — that it is *“the power”*, and power enough to save the souls of men.

The gospel of Christ, God’s law of pardon to sinners and His law of instruction to Christians, revealed through the Holy Spirit, and recorded in the New Testament, is the only instruction that man needs to accomplish his release from sin, and to enjoy eternal salvation in heaven.

All additional revelation or doctrine, all tradition and decrees must be regarded as extra baggage, useless, damaging, and should, therefore, be rejected.

There were those in Paul’s day who attempted to preach *“another gospel”*, and he warned the brethren in Galatia of such false teachers.

Gal. 1:6-9, *“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”*

Let us note some of the ways in which the gospel is described in the scriptures which serve as indisputable proof of its all-sufficiency.

The gospel is perfect

James 1:25, *“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”*

That which is perfect cannot be improved upon by addition or subtraction.

Furthermore, that which is perfect cannot have anything added to it or taken from it without marring its perfection.

Rev. 22:18-19, *“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”*

The Law of Moses could not bring perfection.

Heb. 7:19, *“For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.”*

So, the Law of Moses was only “a shadow of good things to come.”

Heb. 10:1, *“For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.”*

The Law of Moses was not perfect and had to be torn down before a better law was put in its place.

- Heb. 9:8, *“The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:”*
- Heb. 10:4, *“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.”*
- Heb. 10:9, *“Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.”*

The gospel is powerful

Rom. 1:16, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*

The word “*power*” in the text is from the Greek word “*dunamis*”.

This is the word from which we get the words “dynamic”, “dynamo”, and “dynamite”.

So, the gospel is dynamic; it is God's dynamo, or dynamite, unto salvation. It is the mighty plan by which God exerts His power in the salvation of mankind.

This is God's plan; it is not a device of man.

It is not a feeble and ineffective plan, but it is "mighty".

2 Cor. 10:4, "*(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*"

It should be remembered that the gospel of Christ is God's power "unto salvation"; that is, unto a complete deliverance from sin and death and results in ultimate salvation in heaven.

So, if I desire to save souls, I should preach the same gospel that Paul preached, because short of it there is no power that can save men from sin.

If I am interested along social lines, and I go out and help people to get along in this physical life, I might do them good.

But, if I am after the salvation of souls, if I am trying to give men not only a better life here, but also the hope of eternal life hereafter, then I must carry to them that which can reach their hearts and save them from sin.

And that is the gospel of Christ.

Jesus was confronted with a man who had a very personal social duty.

Luke 9:57-60, "*And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.*"

Which duty did Jesus deem the more important?

The gospel is complete

2 Tim. 3:16-17, "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*"

The all-sufficiency and absolute adequacy and adaptability of the Bible to meet the demands of the human family is emphasized in this passage. Christians believe this.

2 Pet. 1:3, “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

For centuries Christians have been admonished to speak as the Bible speaks.

1 Pet. 4:11, “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

For me to accept any ritual, handbook, catechism, manual, or prayer book to govern my religious activities, would be to make void my faith in the all-sufficiency of the scriptures.

If the Bible “*thoroughly furnishes a man unto every good work*”, then why have a supplemental book?

Is not the adoption of an additional book of human authorship a lack of full trust in the all-sufficiency of the Holy scriptures?

Let us note some things taught in 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

2 Tim. 3:16-17, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

That the Holy scriptures are “*given by inspiration of God*”.

This distinguishes the writings, or oracles, of God from the profane writings of men.

That the Holy scriptures are “*profitable*”. Profitable for what?

They are “*profitable for doctrine*”, or teaching; that is, they point out the doctrine of God and of Christ.

They are profitable “*for reproof*.”

- Eph. 5:11, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”
- 2 Tim. 4:2, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

They are profitable “*for correction*.” They lead one to a correction, or amendment, of life.

The gospel is a sufficient and powerful means of reforming a person’s life.

They are profitable “*for instruction in righteousness*”. The gospel of Christ furnishes instruction in holiness and right living.

That the Holy scriptures are given *“That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”*

That is, the gospel furnishes the man of God all the instructions needed for his complete life. So, the Bible is adequate for man’s every spiritual need.

The gospel is enduring

Matt. 24:35, *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”*

1 Pet. 1:25, *“But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”*

Hence, the word of the Lord is unmoved, fixed, and permanent.

Empires rise and fall, kingdoms come and go; but the word of God abides.

The gospel system is as lovely now as it was when it was first revealed to man, and it has as much power to save now as it had when first applied to a human heart.

Some religious reformers today can be heard to say, *“We need a new gospel for the new age.”*

But man no more needs a new gospel than he needs a new sunshine or new food.

Man has not changed physically or morally; sin has not changed. Satan has not changed; so, why attempt to change the remedy to overcome sin?

Since the word will endure forever, it is by it that we shall be judged.

John 12:48, *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”*

Paul declared in Rom. 2:16, *“In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”*

Conclusion

Since the word of the Lord, the gospel, is perfect, powerful, complete, and enduring, why does it not save all men?

God has assured us that when His word is preached that it shall not return unto Him void.

Isa. 55:11, “*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*”

If it does not save all men it is not because God does not will it so.

- 1 Tim. 2:4, “*Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*”
- 2 Pet. 3:9, “*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*”

The trouble is that some will not come to God. Jesus said to some in His day:

John 5:40, “*And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.*”

If today you are not a Christian, then obey the gospel, “*which is the power of God unto salvation.*”

- Believe in Jesus with all your heart.
- Turn from sin in honest and earnest repentance.
- Confess your faith in the name of Jesus.
- Be baptized into Christ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Then continue to live as the gospel of Christ directs and be saved eternally by its all-sufficiency power.

