

**Sermon Series:** Book of Romans

**Sermon title:** "The Power of the Gospel"

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 1:16-17

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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The simple power of the gospel can be seen clearly in a story told by Charles Spurgeon.

"In 1857, a day or two before preaching at the Crystal Palace, (where he would preach to over 23,000 people) I went to decide where the platform should be fixed; and, in order to test the acoustic properties of the building, cried in a loud voice, "*Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*" In one of the galleries, a workman, who knew nothing of what was being done, heard the words, and they came like a message from heaven to his soul. He was smitten with conviction on account of sin, put down his tools, went home, and there, after a season of spiritual struggling, found peace and life by beholding the Lamb of God. Years after, he told this story to one who visited him on his death-bed.

Spurgeon had no idea that his words would be used so powerfully for God to bring someone to salvation.

Neither do we!

### **Let's pray.**

Let's read our text again as we begin.

**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 for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

In order to understand the book of Romans, we must understand these verses.

The main point for today's message is this:

**The courage to share the gospel comes from knowing and believing the truth of the gospel.**

Here are my main points if you are taking notes:

- I. The Gospel- the power of God- by it.**
- II. The Gospel- the righteousness of God- in it.**
- III. The Gospel- the courage of man- from it.**

## I. The Gospel- the power of God- by it.

**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.

We saw last week that Paul said he was obligated to the gospel, eager to share the gospel and unashamed of the gospel.

Let me just pause for a second, in case there is anyone here who doesn't know what we mean by the term 'gospel'.

**Gospel:** the good news about what Jesus Christ has done.

So Paul was not ashamed to share with people the good news about what Jesus has done.

Why? Where does this courage to share the gospel come from?

It comes from knowing and believing the truth of the gospel and leaving the results to God.

Paul says this good news is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,

## Power of God.

When the truth of what Christ has done is seen and heard, God uses that message, that truth, to do powerful things.

Like the janitor who heard Spurgeon.

Like **Matthew 7:21** that I read in the Bible and God worked in my heart.

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father.”

Do you believe that the gospel is powerful?

I think many of us would say,.....

“Yes, I believe the gospel is the *wisdom* of God.”

“The gospel is the *truth* of God.”

“The gospel is the *pathway* of God.”

“The gospel is the *message* of God.”

But what about ‘[the power of God](#)’?

Do we believe that God does powerful things through the gospel?

Notice that this ‘[power of God](#)’ is [FOR salvation to everyone who believes](#).

What does he mean here by [salvation](#)?

The good news about what Jesus has done is for all people everywhere to be saved or delivered.

Saved from what?

Delivered from what?

Sin.

Sin and the consequences of sin, which is death and separation from God.

Paul will use the next about 10 chapters to explain all of this.

The message of the gospel is the good news that a person can be powerfully delivered from their sin and can have eternal life through what Jesus Christ has done.

And that deliverance/salvation is available to all who believe. The Jews heard this message first and then the message went around the world and is still going.

How did God make this happen?

How does God save people?

## **II. The Gospel- the righteousness of God- in it.**

**17** For in it (the gospel message) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

So, the gospel reveals something to us.

It reveals what?

That there is a way to be righteous before God.

This assumes that you are not righteous.

We are not good people.

We are sinners through and through.

Paul will explain this in the verses next week.

We have a problem with God.

God is righteous.

We are not righteous.

Therefore, we have a broken relationship with God that cannot be repaired by anything we can do.

But then the gospel comes along.

A righteousness is revealed in the gospel that we can have.

It's not our righteousness but someone else's.

We have to read chapter 3 to see this.

**Romans 3:21-25**

**21** But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the Law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— **22** the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and are justified by his grace as a gift, though the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25** whom God put forward as an atoning sacrifice by his blood to be received by faith.

There it is.

The gospel powerfully reveals to everyone a way to be saved and how to be right with God.

Jesus Christ who was righteous in every way sacrificed his life to make you righteous.

He takes your sin and gives you his righteousness.

Believe and have faith in him and you will be saved.

### **I. The Gospel- the power of God- by it.**

God uses the preaching of the gospel message to powerfully transform people and save them.

### **II. The Gospel- the righteousness of God- in it.**

He is able to save people because Jesus Christ who was perfectly righteous, sacrificed his life to make people righteous....those who believe/ have faith.

### **III. The Gospel- the courage of man- from it.**

How does this message make Paul courageous?

Or...how is Paul not ashamed and how can we be not ashamed as well?

### **The courage to share the gospel comes from knowing and believing the truth of the gospel.**

I submit to you that the reason why we struggle with sharing the gospel is because we don't believe that it is really powerful.

Or really...we don't believe that God is powerful.

The gospel is the power of God for salvation.  
Not...'I' am the power of God for salvation.

Let me ask you a question.

Do you know who your postman/mailman is?

*(Maybe not if you live on the 50th floor but in a village house, you know your mailman.)*

Do you think your mailman is sitting at home nervous today, wondering if you have opened the mail?

No, I am sure he's not. Why?

Because his job is simply to deliver the mail.

Our job is simply to give the gospel to people.

The power to make people listen, respond and be changed is all God's part.



Let me show you some other places where Paul shows he understands this...to show us that he has a courage because he knows the power is in the simple gospel and not in himself.

### **1 Corinthians 1:17-18**

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

### **1 Corinthians 1:22-24**

For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

### **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling (sound like us?) And my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom but in

demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

## **2 Corinthians 4:2**

We have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth,

## **2 Corinthians 4:7**

We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

Let me close by an illustration.

Have you ever been on a sailboat before?

How does a sailboat move?

By the wind.

Where does the power come from?

From God. From the wind.

But....you can't see anything happen if you don't hoist the sail.

Our job is to hoist the sail and deliver the mail.

God's job is to work in power to save people.