

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

By David H. Snyder

Those who have received Christ as their personal Savior can testify to the power of the Gospel message. It is an amazing privilege to have heard a clear presentation about the good news of salvation and then to have received God's gift of eternal life. For me, that happened when I was eight years old in a Sunday school class in Pennsylvania. That was a day that changed my life forever. I am reminded daily of the privilege of being saved and the responsibility to proclaim the message of salvation.



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The Apostle Paul experienced salvation on the road to Damascus. As a result, he boldly declared, *"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"* (Romans 1:16). There are at least three ways in which the power of the Gospel can be seen in this verse.

First, the Gospel is not "the gospel of Paul," it is the Gospel *of Christ*—the Christ Whose power was demonstrated by His death, burial, and resurrection. This is not a gospel Paul invented about himself or anyone else. This is the good news about the one and only Savior of the world. This is the Christ Who won the victory over death and the grave (1 Corinthians 15:55–57).

Second, the Gospel is *the power of God unto salvation*. Prior to Paul's conversion, he only knew of a powerless, works-based plan of salvation that could never pay the price for sin. It was only after Paul met Christ and received Him as Savior that he experienced true and eternal victory over sin's penalty and Satan's power (see article on page 8 "Where Satan Accused—The Savior Acquitted").

Third, the Gospel is so powerful that it is available *to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek*. The atonement of Christ is not limited in any way. *Jesus is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world* (1 John 2:2). God has not selected a certain few to be saved and at the same time condemned the rest to hell. *Whosoever* (Jew or Gentile) *shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved* (Romans 10:13).

As we think about the power of the Gospel, there are many reasons we can—and should—rejoice. However, as mentioned earlier, we must also remember our responsibility to boldly proclaim the message of God's love. This is necessary because the Gospel's power will only be experienced by *every one that believeth*. Jesus told Nicodemus, *"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only*

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek:
for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be **saved**.

How then shall they **call** on him in whom they have not believed?

and how shall they **believe** in him of whom they have not heard?

and how shall they **hear** without a preacher?

And how shall they **preach** except they be **sent?** as it is written,

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Romans 10:12-15

Six Strategic Steps In Missions



begotten Son of God" (John 3:18). In order for someone to believe on the Lord, he must first hear about Him. This is where our responsibility starts.

The Bible gives several strategic steps in missions that lead to a person's salvation. For example, Romans 10:13–15 shows that people must hear¹ about the Lord before they can believe and call on Him for salvation. In order for the world to hear the Gospel, missionaries must be *sent* so they can *preach* the message of salvation. Again, this emphasizes our responsibility. We must *send* and *preach* if people are going to *hear* and *believe* the powerful Gospel message that will transform their lives when they *call* on the Lord and are *saved*.

God has done His part. He has provided salvation for the world. The power of the Gospel has not and will not diminish. We can rejoice and be confident in the fact that the Gospel *of Christ* is indeed *the power of God unto salvation to every one*. But let us never forget the words *"that believeth."*

¹Preaching the message is important but unless the intended audience can *hear* (understand) the message, the preaching will be in vain. In our last edition of the *BIMI World*, we stressed how important it was for missionaries to learn the language of the people they are called to reach. In this edition, please consider how important it is for the deaf to "hear" the Gospel in their language (see article on page 4 "The Deaf Are 'Hearing' the Gospel").