The Power Of God

Intro: Romans 1:13-17 “Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles. 14I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. 15So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. 16For 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. 17For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” has often been called, “the golden text of the Bible.”

Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God” has been called “the golden text of the Old Testament”

Rev. 1:7 “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen” has been called “the key verse” or “golden text of the last book.”

1. With the same fitness, 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.” might be called, “the key verse” or “golden text of the Roman letter.”

2. It concerns us with the Gospel of Christ.
   a. 1 Cor. 15:1-5 “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:”
   b. It contains facts to be believed, commands to be obeyed, and promises to be received.

3. Of this Gospel the apostle Paul was not ashamed. At no time and in no place did he shun to declare it.
   a. In Athens the center of culture; Acts 17.
   b. In Corinth a center of vice; Acts 18.
   c. In Ephesus a center of idolatry and witchcraft; Acts 19.
   d. In Jerusalem a center of religious prejudice; Acts 9, 21-23.
   e. And now, in Rome, a center of military and political power.

4. Why was he not ashamed of this Gospel?

I. IT, TOO, IS A POWER.
   A. There are different kinds, or types, of power.
      1. Military power.
      2. Natural power (tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, etc.)
      3. Muscular power.
      4. Power of an idea or intellectual power.
      5. Spiritual power.
   B. This power to which Paul refers is spiritual: working on the soul of man, his most priceless possession.
II. IT IS DIVINE POWER.
   A. “The power of God.”
   B. The power of others:
      1. Rome’s power was in the sword.
      2. Greece’s power in her culture.
      3. Jerusalem’s power was in her religious traditions.
      4. The power of Satan is sin.
      5. But, the power of God is in the Gospel.
   C. Power is from the Greek word dunamis (δύναμις).
      1. It denotes power, ability or capability, might or strength.
      2. From this word we get our words; dynamite, dynamo, dynamic; all expressing great
         power, energy and force.

III. IT IS A BENEVOLENT POWER.
   A. “Unto Salvation.”
   B. Some powers are destructive.
      1. Fire, flood, avalanche, storms, diseases are destructive in the realm of nature.
      2. Sin and Satan work havoc in the moral and spiritual realm.
   C. But, this Gospel power is constructive, uplifting, and full of blessings.
      1. It liberates—frees man from sin; Rom. 6:17-18 “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants
         of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18Being then made
         free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”
      2. It elevates—raises man; Rom. 6:1-4 “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may
         abound? 2God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3Know ye not, that so
         many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4Therefore we are buried with
         him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even
         so we also should walk in newness of life.”
      3. It energizes—gives man the power to walk in newness of life; Rom. 6:5 “For if we have been
         planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:”
      4. It fertilizes—enables man to bear fruit; Rom. 6:22 “But now being made free from sin, and
         become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.”
      5. It immortalizes—gives eternal life; Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God
         is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

IV. IT IS A UNIVERSAL POWER.
   A. Saves man without social or racial distinctions; Rom. 2:11 “For there is no respect of persons
      with God.”
      1. All have sinned; Rom. 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
      2. Thus, the Gospel is for all; Rom. 1:16-17 “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. 17For
         therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
   B. Though God is no respecter of persons, He is a respecter of character; Acts 10:34-35
      “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 34But in every
      nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”

Conclusion: Are you ashamed of the Gospel? If you have never believed the facts contained in the
Gospel and obeyed the commands therein; do so today so that you will receive the precious promises
found in the Gospel.