

“The Power of God”

Romans 1:16

*** **VIDEO: “Where Do You Stand?”**

Do you realize that is the most important question you’ll ever be asked?

Where do you stand... with Jesus, the Christ?

Let me ask you another question... that will help you answer the first one...

HOW do you stand...when it comes to your relationship with Jesus?

Welcome to week #5 in our series: “G.O.S.P.E.L!”

- Thus far, we have:
1. Overviewed the book of Romans
 2. Focused on 1:1 (“people” of the gospel)
 3. Studied 1:1-7 (“promise” of the gospel)
 4. Last week 1:8-15 (“DNA of a disciple”)

This week we are going to take a closer look at God’s Power...

Let me tell you up front where we are going. For some of you, we will be heading into uncharted territory - you’re in for a tremendous adventure. For others, today will feel like a wonderful homecoming. And for a few, this is going to be a painful confrontation...

LETS PRAY BEFORE WE BEGIN...

Let’s read God’s Word and listen to our text...

“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.” - Rom. 1:16

As we get ready to un-pack this verse and see what God is saying to us...

Let me give you a heads-up... we will be keying in on 4 terms today:

“Ashamed” “Power of God” “Salvation” “Believes”

“For”

Gk. “gar” = a primary participle; properly assigning a reason (used in explanation & intensification, often with other participles: ie. because, no doubt, therefore, indeed, seeing, verily...)

“I”

As always, every truth of the Bible comes down to a personal truth.

“am not”

Heb. 12:2 = parallel Jesus & Paul’s explanation...

“...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

“ashamed”

General definition: “to have a feeling of fear or shame which prevents a person from doing something”

Specific definition: “the feeling of shame arising from something that has been done.”

Garden of Eden: “...and they were not ashamed”

Hebrews 11:16: God the Father is not ashamed to be called the God of (biblical) believers

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 2:11: Jesus is not ashamed to call true Christians

For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Psalms 31:1

In You, O LORD, I have taken refuge; Let me never be ashamed; In Your righteousness deliver me.

Psalms 119:116

Sustain me according to Your word, that I may live; And do not let me be ashamed of my hope.

Isaiah 50:7

For the Lord GOD helps Me, Therefore, I am not disgraced; Therefore, I have set My face like flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.

Jeremiah 6:15 & 8:12 same (disciplined for not being ashamed)

"Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done? They were not even ashamed at all; They did not even know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time that I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the LORD.

Jeremiah 22:22

"The wind will sweep away all your shepherds, And your lovers will go into captivity; Then you will surely be ashamed and humiliated Because of all your wickedness.

Micah 3:7 (ashamed because God does not answer them...)

The seers will be ashamed And the diviners will be embarrassed. Indeed, they will all cover their mouths Because there is no answer from God.

Mark 8:38 - *do not be ashamed of Me here... or I will be ashamed of you when I come back...*

"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

2 Tim. 1:8,12, 2:15 - "...do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord... or of me... but come join me in suffering for the gospel..."

Heb. 2:11 & 11:16 -

- 1). Jesus not ashamed to call believers "brother"
- 2). God not ashamed to adopt Christ-like disciples!

"of the gospel" (outline the gospel & note "not ashamed" pertains to each piece)

Note: Gospel = "His promise" (v.2) and "His power" (v.16)

"for" ...get ready for another explanation or intensification...

"it is" What is the "it" of "it is?" - Simple... "the gospel"

"the power" Gk. "Doo'-nam-is" - from which we get our English "dynamite"

***** VIDEO: "Chan Power-Beam"**

Three issues:

First, many take God's power for granted and/or waste it
Second, many pretend to have God's power... but don't
Third, most ignore prophecy regarding God's power

PLEASE... Read Matthew 24 & 25!

“of God”

Okay... this is where we go from preaching to meddling!

Genesis 1:1 (incredible demonstration...)

Creation of man... (“intelligent design”)

Virgin birth...

Acts 2:43 (awe of God through the lives of loving disciples)

Resurrection Sunday!

(now combine)

“the power of God”

Note: **“eternal security”** - cannot lose salvation!!!

John 10:24-29 = *If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.*
Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. "But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

“for”

Again, get ready for an explanation and intensification...

Paul is telling us that he (and each Christian, by inference) is not ashamed of the gospel (the good news that though we are sinners by nature, Jesus has made a way, through the gifts of repentance and faith, to receive God's saving gift of grace), because it is the very power (which is unique and unavailable anywhere else), of God (the One and only true God), thereby making it loving, effective and totally trustworthy in its expressed purpose, which is stated next as.... “salvation.”

“salvation”

3 parts... A). What Jesus accomplished; B). What the believer experiences; C). What the biblical believer is “saved” from... (Holman Dictionary)

All of Salvation is of the completed work of Jesus on the cross... Illustration: It is like a mother who does all the work in planning the party and making the birthday cake for her child... While the party is coordinated, lovingly, by the parent (they do all the behind the scenes work, pay all the costs, make the cake and sacrificially present all the blessings...), it is “for” the child.

But... it is all “of” the parent. Just because the child shows up to his/her party, gets all the gifts, and eats all the cake... Even though it appears on the surface that this event is all about the child... In reality, this day is all about the parent, the parent’s love. Thus, the child’s excitement ought not be centered in what they “got”... but, rather, who they “are,” and the blessing of the family they have been born into - which they realize, had nothing to do with them or their decisions.

They realize... they are blessed by God and His grace... like the acorn that providentially falls, at just the right time... on the tender & fertile soil that God has sovereignly prepared for it... supernaturally positioned right next to the spring fed stream that will feed it & fill it with life-giving nutrients for a lifetime to come. The acorn gets no credit for the mighty oak God is providing & equipping it to “be.” Such is also the case with the child & his family... and even more so, with the biblical believer who has been rescued & redeemed by the Christ of Christianity.

Delivers from the Penalty & Power of Sin... the “eternal” AND “perpetual”

Salvation Process:

Election	Romans 8:33; Jeremiah 1:5
Conviction	John 16:8
Repentance	2 Corinthians 7:10; Luke 15:7,10
Faith	John 3:16... Note: John 3:36
Justification	Ephesians 2:8-9
Declaration	Romans 10:9-10
Sanctification	1 Peter 2:2... Philippians 2:12
Ultimate Glorification	John 14:2-3

“Salvation” has 2 sides:

1. What/Who you get...
 - Indwelling Holy Spirit
 - Jesus as Lord & Savior
 - Galatians 4:4-5 (His birth... for salvation)
 - Romans 4:25 (His resurrection for salvation)
 - Romans 8:34 (His ascension for salvation)
 - Adopted by Abba, “Daddy” God, the Father

2. What/Who you don't get...
 - Wrath of God
 - Various degrees of hell on earth...
 - Eternal damnation, apart from God, in hell

***** VIDEO: “Wrath of the Lamb”**

Romans 5:9-10 ties salvation & wrath of God together...

- Wrath of God = (withheld) mercy
- Wrath of God = (temporary) surgery
- Wrath of God = (temporary) heat of the crucible
- Wrath of God = (final) justice

“to everyone” * VIDEO: “Most” (the promise)**

Romans 3:22-24 = *This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

Suffering servants are living seeds.” - Charles Spurgeon

“who believes, first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”

Mark 12:30 = “the Great Commandment”

YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'

“Where Are The Christians”

by Pastor Jeff Pearson

Where **are** the Christians? Where **are** the Christ-like?

Will the sleeping church wait,
Until it's too late?
Will we share the whole gospel?
Will we give it all straight?

This world's fuse is lit...
How long will it burn?
Hell's creeping up,
At every turn.

Where are the Christians?
Where are the Christ-like?
Where are His children
That will pray day and night?

Where are the Christians?
Where are the Christ-like?
Whose going ALL-IN...
Called to the fight?

What's it going to take...
To heal our churches;
To wake up the dead...
And empty our hearses?

How much more must we see...
Before we sound the alarm;
Till we stop playing church...
It's a call to arms!

Where are the Christians?
Where are the Christ-like?
...His cross-carriers,
Champions of Light?

Where are the Christians?
Where are the Christ-like?
...Disciplined Warriors,
Called to the fight!

There's no reason to worry...
Say the wolves to the sheep.
Don't listen to zealots...
Drift back to sleep.

The wolves are supported...
By the lazy shallow,
The ones telling others...
The gate's not that narrow.

Where are the Christians?
Where are the Christ-like?
He calls the surrendered...
To make this wrong right!

Where are the Christians?
Where are the Christ-like?
...The selfless truth-tellers,
Called to the fight!

No more social cocoons,
Filled with dead church sin.
Religion kills...
Like cancer within!

No more empty religion,
Hypocrisy must go.
True faith obeys-the-Lord!
Excuses come from below...

Where are the Christians?
Where are the Christ-like?
Where are His servants,
Called to pour out their lives?

Where are the Christians?
Where are the Christ-like?
...The saved souls...
Called to the fight!

Where **are** the Christians?
Where **are** the Christ-like?