**The Gospel – God’s Power To Save You**

*Romans 1:16*

**Introduction**

1. **Matthew 19:16-22** – Jesus’ encounter with the rich young ruler.
   1. Appeared to have a desire to inherit *“eternal life.”*
   2. Jesus told him what to do to *“have treasure in heaven.”* **(v. 21)**
   3. Young man showed that his priorities were not well arranged **(v. 22)** – **he wanted to maintain earthly wealth, instead of gaining spiritual wealth.**
2. **Matthew 19:23-26** – Jesus’ reaction to the event, and conversation with His disciples.
   1. It is hard for a rich man to get to heaven – with an extreme example to emphasize difficulty **(v. 23-24)**.
      1. Hard because of mind-set, not financial status (**cf. 1 Timothy 6:9-10; Matthew 6:19-21).**
      2. **Materialism is a problem. It can be very easy to get caught up with things in this life, and place them before God.**
      3. **Therefore, one who has an abundance of things is more likely to get distracted, and lose his focus on the eternal.**
   2. It is difficult, but not impossible **(v. 25-26).** 🡪
3. ***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” (Romans 1:16)***.
   1. The *“everyone”* is the same as those which Jesus came to save (**cf. Matthew 18:11** – Jesus did not come to save those who didn’t need saving.).
   2. **Romans 3:23; 6:23** – Not only have all sinned, but all sin is paid the same wages – death.
   3. In order to receive salvation, no matter the sin, one must follow the *“gospel of Christ”* – it is God’s power to save YOU, and EVERYONE.
4. The difficulty of salvation does not reside in God’s power – the gospel – but in men’s hearts (**cf. Matthew 7:13-14** – few find the way because they do not want to.). 🡪
5. **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** – in order to be saved, one must not allow Satan to blind you with the temporal things of this life. You must be willing to come to the light of the gospel! (**The choice is always yours/ours – veiled or unveiled?**)
6. **This power of God to save is displayed in the gospel regardless of the sin committed**. It can save you too.
7. Murderers – Jews on Pentecost
8. Devout Jews
   1. **Acts 2:5-8** – Jews from all over had come to Jerusalem to worship God.
      1. They were together and heard the apostles speaking in tongues.
      2. Peter’s sermon is recorded 🡪
   2. **Acts 2:22-24, 36** – Peter convicted them of sin – murdering Jesus, who is the Christ, the Son of God.
      1. Jesus acknowledged their ignorance – **Luke 23:34**
      2. Paul noted it as well – **1 Corinthians 2:8** (Ignorant of Jesus’ deity – although they should have known)
9. Their Response
   1. **Acts 2:37** – They were *“cut to the heart.”*
   2. **This news affected them greatly. They realized now exactly what they had done – killed God’s Son who was the Messiah.**
   3. **Acts 2:38** – Peter’s response. They must repent and be baptized – obey the gospel.
      1. Their response to Peter was positive **(v. 41).**
      2. **Their sin was horrible, but they did something about it. It was not too great for God’s power to salvation.**
   4. **V. 39** – the promise is for us as well. YOU can do the same!
10. Blasphemers – Saul of Tarsus
11. Chief of Sinners
    1. **1 Timothy 1:12-16** – Paul understood what terrible things he had done. As such, he understood what a terrible state he was in.
    2. ***“For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God” (1 Corinthians 15:9)***.
12. Paul Was Saved
    1. **Acts 9:1-6** – Jesus appeared to Him.
       1. Saul was on his way to continue blasphemy and persecution against the Lord and His disciples. (**v. 1-2**)
       2. He recognized the deity of Jesus, as he called Him Lord **(v. 5**).
       3. After realizing his life of blasphemy and sin, he asked to do to be forgiven **(v. 6)**.
    2. **Acts 22:12-16** – Paul was told what to do, and he did it.
       1. **He did not think his sin was too much.**
       2. **He understood the power of God, and trusted Him.**
13. The Immoral – Corinthians
14. People of Corinth
    1. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11a** – Before believing, the Corinthians once conducted themselves in this way.
    2. **To korinthiazesthai – to Corinthianize – “to live like a Corinthian”**
       1. A term coined by the Greeks to describe Corinthian immorality.
       2. Greek and Roman authors in the centuries before the rise of Christianity often referred to Corinth as the city of fornication and prostitution. (Hendriksen-Kistemaker)
15. Many Responded to the Gospel
    1. Paul preached in Corinth – ***“And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized” (Acts 18:8).***
    2. **1 Corinthians 12:12-13** – They became members of the body of Christ.
    3. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** – They were many things, but they were washed. **They were saved, and you can be too. 🡪**
       1. **They became saints** 🡪
       2. ***“To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints” (1 Corinthians 1:2).***

**Conclusion**

1. God is omnipotent – all powerful – nothing is too hard for Him.
2. With that power, He can save you.
3. Your sin is not too great for Him.
4. However, He does not wish for you to remain in your sin, but requires you to believe, and obey His word:
   1. Believe – **John 3:16**
   2. Repent – **Luke 13:5**
   3. Confess – **Matthew 10:32-33**
   4. Baptism – **Acts 2:38**
   5. **No matter how sinful your life has been, you can choose to follow Christ. God will forgive you. He has provided us with His power to salvation!**