

The Changing Power of the Gospel of Christ

1 Cor. 1:18-24

Introduction:

- A. A church that just offers the gospel seems strange to many people.
 - 1. Not everyone appreciates its value and power (vv. 18, 23).
 - 2. Christians appreciate its value and power (vv. 18, 24).
- B. Value and power of Gospel seen by the fundamental changes it makes in men and women.

Discussion:

I. It Changes the *Spiritual Condition* of Men and Women.

- A. From lost sinners into saved saints. (1 Cor.6:9-11).
 - 1. Saved by the gospel (1 Cor. 15:2).
 - 2. Cleansed in baptism (Acts 18:8; cf. Acts 22:16)
- B. From children of devil into children of God. (Gal. 3:26,27).

II. It Changes the *Outlook* of Men and Women.

- A. From hopelessness into hopefulness (Eph. 2:12; 1 Pet. 1:3)
 - 1. Pessimism to optimism.
 - 2. The Jailer (Acts 16:27, 34).
 - 3. Paul (Rom. 7:24,25).
- B. From worldly outlook to spiritual outlook (Phil. 3:4-11)
- C. From self-pity to gracious suffering (Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:17)

III. It Changes the *Life-styles* of Men and Women.

- A. Religious life-style.
 - 1. From Idols to Living God. (1 Thess. 1:9).
 - 2. From fanatical persecutor into preacher. (1 Cor. 15:9,10).
 - 3. From Vain-worshiper into true worshiper. (John 4:23, 24; Matt. 15:9).
- B. General life-style.
 - 1. From self-seeking to self-denial (Matt. 6:24)
 - 2. From lusts of men to the will of God (1 Pet. 4:1-4).
 - 3. From laziness to productive work (2 Thess. 3:10)

IV. It Changes the *Destinies* of Men and Women.

- A. Eternally doomed into eternally saved. (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
- B. Hell-bound into Heaven-bound.

Conclusion:

- A. If you value the gospel - obey it.
- B. If you value the gospel - spread it.
- C. If you value the gospel - defend it (cf. Phil. 1:17).