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).
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.
   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).
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).