

## The Significance of the Gospel

The New Testament uses the term *gospel* frequently. We all need to have a clear understanding of its meaning and significance.

First, Jesus commanded his disciples to preach the gospel to the whole creation (Mark 16:15). These disciples were so faithful in carrying out the commission of the Lord that Paul could say that the gospel “was preached in all creation under heaven (Col 1:23).”

Second, the gospel of Christ is the word of reconciliation;

But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and gave unto us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not reckoning unto them their trespasses, and having committed unto us the word of reconciliation. . . . We beseech (you) on behalf of Christ, be ye reconciled to God (2 Cor 5:18-20).

According to Paul, God committed this word of reconciliation to faithful teachers (See 2 Tim. 2:2).

Third, the gospel of Christ is “the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16).” The Corinthians experienced firsthand this power of God: “Now I make known unto you brethren, the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye received, wherein also ye stand, by which also ye are saved, if ye hold fast the word which I preached unto you, except ye believed in vain (1 Cor 15:1-2).” Paul preached the gospel to the Corinthians, they received and obeyed it, and the gospel saved them. Acts 18:8 affirms the power of the gospel among the Corinthians: “The Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”

Fourth, the gospel calls sinners. Paul explained this fact about the gospel: “Whereunto he called you through our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thess. 2:14).” The Holy Spirit does not call the lost by his direct operation or intervention. An emotional experience or feeling does not call the lost. One cannot be called at the mourners bench. The lost are called by the gospel when they hear and obey it (Mark 16:15-16; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).

Fourth, the gospel calls those who receive and obey it. The gospel called and saved the Christians at Rome when they received it and obeyed it from the heart: “But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered; and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness (Rom 6:17-18).”