

"THE GOSPEL IN POWER"**Introduction**

1. Is the gospel changing us all?
2. Not just for the hard of heart.
3. Not just for a time but forever.

1. THE GOSPEL COMES TO SOME PEOPLE IN WORD ONLY

- 1) They hear the message. (Details)
- 2) But the effect is less than salvation:
 - (i) some scoff: Acts 2, Acts 17
 - (ii) some think us mad:
 - (iii) others are only partially persuaded: "Almost thou persuadest me..."
- 3) Where is the failure?
 - (i) They do not truly hear God's voice
 - (ii) Hence: no light in the soul / no fear of God.
APPLICATION: This is a common fault.

2. TO OTHERS THE GOSPEL COMES IN POWER

- 1) This power: what is it?
- 2) The action of the Holy Spirit
 - (i) light in the soul – to see the truth
 - (ii) a change in the will
 - (iii) a readiness to lose all for Christ
- 3) An "assurance":
 - (i) full persuasion of God's word
 - (ii) inward certainty of its truth
ILLUSTRATION: The Ethiopian eunuch; Lydia
 - (iii) love for God and a break with the world.
ILLUSTRATION: Wilberforce + Pitt

3. WHEN THE GOSPEL COMES IN POWER IT IS PROOF THAT WE ARE THE HEIRS OF GLORY

- 1) There are 2 classes of persons who hear the gospel:
 - (i) those in word only;
 - (ii) those who have this "power"
- 2) The source of this power:
 - (i) God's election: explained + proved
 - (ii) See Romans 8:29-30: the plan of God
- 3) The fruit of this power:
 - (i) a readiness to suffer for the gospel
 - (ii) inward joy – the Spirit's work
 - (iii) rejection of all idolatry (= false teaching)
 - (iv) patient waiting for Christ's return
- 4) Ought all men to believe the gospel?
 - (i) Yes – since no one knows if he is elect
 - (ii) All are welcomed by God
 - (iii) The promise is good to all who believe
 - (iv) a word from God is a covenant to us

CONCLUSION

There is a wonderful power in the gospel:

1. See how it alters lives here (v.7-8)
2. fills people with new love, joy, hope! (v.6)
3. all of which come when we believe in Christ

PSALM**62: 5 – 9****84: 4 – 10****71: 14 – 17**