

**The Book Of Romans
The Gospel Of Christ
Session 10**

Romans 1:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

¹⁷ *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."*

After writing to the Roman Church about what true Spiritual Leadership is all about the Apostle now turns to giving the Christians at Rome some key words to understanding the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Those words are:

Power,
 Salvation,
 Faith,
 Righteousness.

Paul declared that he was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, He was ready to preach the gospel wherever he found himself sent by the Holy Spirit. He was eager to go to Rome and to preach and teach there that he might have fruit among the Roman Church.

And having declared all of that, he then begins to talk about the gospel.

And the first thing he says is that **it is the power of God.**

POWER

Romans 1:16b (NASB)

¹⁶ *for it is the power of God*

The word power here is the word *Dunamis*, it is the Greek term from which our word *dynamite* is derived.

The Gospel carries with it the omnipotence of God, whose **power** alone is sufficient to save men from sin and give them eternal life.

People have an innate desire to be changed. They want to look better, feel better, have more money, more power, more influence.

The promise of all advertising is that people want to change in some way or the other.

The job of the advertiser is to convince them that his product or service will add a desired dimension to their lives.

Many people want to be changed inwardly, in a way that will make them feel less guilty and more content, and a host of programs, philosophies, and religions promise to meet those desires.

Many man made schemes succeed in making people feel better about themselves, but the ideas promoted have no power to remove the sin that brings the feelings of guilt and discontent.

Nor can those ideas make men right with God.

In fact the more successful such approaches are from their own stand point, the more they drive people away from God and insulate them from His salvation.

Listen:

Jeremiah 13:23 (NASB)

²³ *"Can the Ethiopian change his skin Or the leopard his spots? Then you also can do good Who are accustomed to doing evil.*

It is not within man's power to change his own nature.

In rebuking the Sadducees who tried to entrap Him, Jesus said;

Matthew 22:29 (NASB)

²⁹ *But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God.*

Only the power of God is able to overcome man's sinful nature and impart spiritual life.

God's Word is very clear that men cannot be spiritually changed or saved by good works, by the church, by ritual, or by any other human means.

Men cannot be saved even by keeping God's own law, which was given to show men their helplessness to meet His standards in their own power.

The law was not given to save men but to reveal their sin and thus to drive men to God's saving grace.

Later in Romans, Paul declares man's impotence and God's power, saying;

Romans 5:6 (NASB)

⁶ *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*

Romans 8:3 (NASB)

³ *For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,*

Peter wrote to this same truth;

1 Peter 1:23 (NASB)

²³ *for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.*

Paul reminded the church at Corinth;

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ *For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

1 Corinthians 1:23-25 (NASB)

²³ *but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,*

²⁴ *but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

²⁵ *Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

What to the world seems to be utter absurdity is in fact the power by which God transforms men from the realm of darkness to the realm of light, and delivers them from the power of death and gives them the right to be called the children of God.

John 1:12 (NASB)

¹² *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,*

Ancient pagans mocked Christianity not only because the idea of substitutionary atonement seemed ridiculous in itself but also because their mythical gods were apathetic, detached, and remote, totally indifferent to the welfare of men.

The idea of a caring, redeeming, self-sacrificing God was beyond their comprehension.

While excavating ancient ruins in Rome, archaeologists discovered a derisive painting depicting a slave bowing down before a cross with a jackass hanging on it.

The caption reads, "Alexamenos worships his god."

In the late second century this attitude still existed.

A man named Celsus wrote a letter bitterly attacking Christianity.

"Let no cultured person draw near, none wise, none sensible." he said, "for all that kind of thing we count evil; but if any man is ignorant, if any is wanting in sense and culture, if any is a fool, let him come boldly to Christianity."

"Of the Christians" he further wrote, "we see them in their own houses, wool dressers, cobblers and fullers, the most uneducated and vulgar persons"

He compared Christians to a swarm of bats, to ants crawling, out of their nests, to frogs holding a symposium around a swamp, and to worms cowering in the muck!!

Not wanting to build on human wisdom or appeal to human understanding, Paul told the Corinthians,

1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (NASB)

¹ *And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.*

² *For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.*

And later in the letter Paul said;

1 Corinthians 4:20 (NASB)

²⁰ *For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.*

Speaking here of the redeeming power of God.

Every believer, no matter how gifted and mature, has human limitations and weaknesses.
Our mind, bodies, and perceptions are imperfect.

Yet incredibly, God uses us as channels of His redeeming and sustaining power when we serve Him obediently.

Scripture certainly testifies to God's glorious power;

Exodus 15:6 (NASB)

⁶ *"Your right hand, O LORD, is majestic in power, Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.*

His irresistible power;

Deuteronomy 32:39 (NASB)

³⁹ *'See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, And there is no one who can deliver from My hand.*

His unsearchable power;

Job 5:9 (NASB)

⁹ *Who does great and unsearchable things, Wonders without number.*

His mighty power;

Psalms 89:8 (NASB)

⁸ *O LORD God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.*

His strong power;

Psalms 89:13 (NASB)

¹³ *You have a strong arm; Your hand is mighty, Your right hand is exalted.*

His incomparable power;

Psalms 89:8 (NASB)

⁸ *O LORD God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.*

His everlasting power;

Isaiah 26:4 (NASB)

⁴ *"Trust in the LORD forever, For in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.*

His effectual power:

Isaiah 43:13 (NASB)

¹³ *"Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"*

Jeremiah declared of God;

Jeremiah 10:12 (NASB)

¹² It is He who made the earth by His power, Who established the world by His wisdom; And by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens.

And the Lord said through Jeremiah;

Jeremiah 27:5 (NASB)

⁵ "I have made the earth, the men and the beasts which are on the face of the earth by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and I will give it to the one who is pleasing in My sight.

The Psalmist admonished:

Psalm 33:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

⁹ For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

His is the power that can save!!!!