



Today's Sermons

Morning: The God of All Comfort

Evening: Song Service

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In this connection, there is another fact that leaders of local flocks need to take into account. If the sowers of the word are going to be more productive, then church leaders need to work to train them or else arrange for someone else to train them to sow more effectively. Some saints sincerely desire to teach the lost, but they do not know how to go about doing it. That is not a knock on them. When there are soul-loving Christians that really want to know how to become more efficient at sowing the seed, then church leaders need to do all within their power to help get the seed-sowing saints prepared. We cannot properly "bash" people for having a lousy attitude toward God's word when we have never approached them with the gospel, right? And, at the same time it is totally out of place to "bash" godly members of the Lord's church that would really like to teach others, but no one has ever shown them how to do it. It takes time to train sowers to sow, but is there anything that is more important in the work and spread of the Kingdom?!

I do not know all the reasons why more souls are not being saved. In many cases, it may be a combination of factors. Rest assured, though, that the Godhead is not lacking in power, nor is the gospel, the blood of God's Son, or the preaching of the gospel. Let's pray for good soil, good sowers, and a good harvest of souls. Let's pray to the Lord of harvest that He will send forth laborers into His harvest (Matthew 9:38). After we have made such petitions, let's get out of our padded chairs, turn off our TV, computer, and cell phone, and go into the harvest fields.



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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am

AM Worship:...11:00am

PM Worship:...6:00pm

2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am

"Back to the Bible"

AM 580 WKSK

93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

WHY AREN'T MORE SOULS BEING SAVED: IS THE POWER LACKING?

Roger D. Campbell

The Bible plainly declares that God wants all people to be saved (1 Tim 2:4). To that end "*the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world*" (1 John 4:14). We also read, "*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners*" (1 Tim 1:15).

Why did Jesus give His apostles the charge to go into all the world? Was it in order to preach the gospel? That is correct (Mark 16:15). Their task or role was to preach, but preaching, in and of itself, was not the ultimate goal, was it? In the first century, what was the desired goal of preaching the gospel to lost people? Jesus answered that question, did He not? He said, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*" (Mark 16:16). The purpose of their preaching was to help people learn the truth in order that they might "be saved" when they obeyed it. Thus, the salvation of souls is the primary goal of preaching.

But, as we all know, not all receive the gospel. When we read the Book of Acts, we gladly note the many cases of conversion that took place in the first century. At the same time, as we read that same book we also are saddened to read of a number of cases of non-conversion. Acts 28:24 is a summary statement of man's response, both then and now, to the message of the gospel: "*And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.*"

Continued Inside

Why aren't more souls being saved today? On the one hand, a person might quickly answer by saying, "According to the Bible, souls aren't being saved because of a lack of faith: when people do not believe, then they cannot be saved." That conclusion surely harmonizes with what the Master said: ". . . *but he that believeth not shall be damned*" (Mark 16:16; cf. Hebrews 11:6).

Again, we ask, why aren't more souls being saved today? What is lacking or missing? Is the power lacking? We know from life's experiences that things can lose part of their power. Machines lose some of their power over time. The human body certainly loses power with age. Could that same thing be happening in the spiritual realm? Could it be that God's plan for man's salvation is suffering from a power shortage, and this is the reason why there are not more souls being saved? Let us consider some facts.

The Power of the Godhead is not lacking. The One Who created us is still "*the Lord Almighty*" (2 Corinthians 6:18). When the apostles asked Jesus, "*Who then can be saved,*" His response was, "*With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible*" (Matthew 19:25,26). There should never be the slightest doubt in the mind of a child of God about His power to save.

The Power of the Gospel is not lacking. It is still true today that the gospel is "*the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek*" (Romans 1:16). The gospel of the Christ is the seed which is capable of causing a person to be born again (Luke 8:11; 1 Peter 1:23). We should never doubt the power of the gospel to change peoples' minds, conduct, and eternal destiny. Rest assured that if few are being saved, the fault does not lie in the gospel.

The Power of the Blood is not lacking. The Bible declares that in Jesus "*we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace*" (Ephesians 1:7). Christians are "*justified by his blood*" (Romans 5:9). Again, in Revelation 7:14 we read that robes are washed white "*in the blood of the Lamb.*" The blood of the Lamb can still wash away sins, so we should never have a speck of doubt as we lift our voices and belt out the words to "There Is Power in the Blood."

The Power of Preaching is not lacking. The Bible says, "*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God*" (1 Corinthians 1:18). Again, it is written, ". . . *it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe*" (1 Corinthians 1:21). So, God's Book informs us that preaching is God's power, and it pleases Him to save people by preaching. Preaching the gospel is still a vital aspect of God's cure for man's spiritual ailments (Mark 16:15,16). Gospel preachers must remember this truth. They must preach with conviction and courage, knowing that the power to save is in the word and the preaching of it. Granted, not all evangelists have the same oratorical abilities, but every man of God that preaches His truth must preach with passion, "*being fervent in the spirit*" like Apollos (Acts 18:25) and having the fire-in-his-bones attitude which the prophet Jeremiah possessed (Jeremiah 20:9).

We thus conclude that if lost people hear the truth and fail to obey it, it is not because of a power shortage on the part of Jehovah or His servants. The Godhead is not lacking in

power, nor is the gospel, the blood of God's Son, or the preaching of the gospel.

So, why aren't more souls being saved? One factor is the soil. From Jesus' Parable of the Sower, we learn that how a person responds to the gospel depends on the type of heart that he/she possesses. In that parable, the soil or ground symbolizes a person's heart. When "an honest and good heart" is lacking, then those that hear the gospel will not obey it initially, or else in the course of time they will discontinue following it (Luke 8:15). So, without good soil, the gospel will continue to fall on "deaf ears."

In addition to good soil, in order for a true conversion to the Christ to take place, there must be the right seed. The Lord has provided that seed – the word of God (Luke 8:11). We know for a fact that there is nothing lacking in the seed.

What about a third element, the sower? Can the sower influence the outcome or result of the sowing? Sure, he can. There is a truth that is so obvious to those who ponder it, but we state it here just to make certain that we do not lose sight of it: if the sower does not do his job, that is, if the sower does not sow the seed/teach the word, then it does not take an Einstein to figure out that there will not be any harvest of souls. Yes, it is true that in many cases it is a soil problem – folks just do not want to hear the truth. Yet, we cannot truthfully accuse folks of *rejecting* the gospel when, in fact, we have never tried to teach it to them! We cannot know what kind of soil people are until we earnestly attempt to teach them! Here is the bottom line in far too many instances: more souls are not being saved because you and I are not getting with it and teaching them the gospel! There you have it – the power that is lacking in some cases is what we can "manpower." We talk to lost people about family, school activities, movies, sports, politics, music, and the weather, but how much do we talk to the same hell-bound folks about the gospel?!

~Continued On Back!

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"*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. " Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed"*
(1 Corinthians 15:10-11).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- May 27 – Song Service
- June 3 – Men's Business Meeting – There will be no Ladies' Class in June
- June 10 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship – Friends & Family Day
- June 13-16 – VBS (Wed-Fri 7:00; Sat 10:00)
- July 15-20 – Tent Meeting w/ Wesley Simons at Greenfield Campground
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell