

Monday, January 11, 2016 - A Great Responsibility

The 2002 version of the movie "Spiderman," the uncle of Spiderman tells him, "with great power comes great responsibility." This quote can apply to so many situations in life but none more important than when you apply it to Christianity.

In Romans 1:16, Paul asserts that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. No man's wisdom, knowledge or message can save mankind, but the gospel can. It is the only thing that can. It is God's only way to salvation. Salvation means both the forgiveness of sins and having the right relationship with God. The gospel, which has required conditions for those who believe, is for every man and every woman. It is offered to all, but only those that believe and obey receive the benefits of it.

We should not forget that the gospel is the power of salvation only to them that believe. The unbeliever is already condemned (John 3:18). It is imperative that we define the type of belief under consideration in Rom. 1:16. It is obviously not "belief alone" of which Paul writes. Later in this same epistle he will discuss the necessity of repentance (Rom. 2:4), confession with the mouth (Rom. 10:9-10), and baptism into Christ (Rom. 6:3-4). Thus the word "believeth" in Rom. 1:16 should be defined in consideration of the context of the entire book to mean a faith that includes obedience to all that God has required in order for one to be saved (Rom. 6:16-18). After all, Jesus is the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him (Heb. 5:8-9). The gospel is the location wherein the righteousness of God is revealed.

Christians have the power to share the power of God. What do you do with your power?