

"THE HEART OF MISSIONS IS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST"

ROMANS 1:1-17

TEXT: VERSE 16

INTRO: MISSIONS is a subject that should be known and understood by every church and every child of God. And yet, there are many churches and children of God who do not know a lot about nor understand MISSIONS and what's worse, they are not concerned about MISSIONS. This is evidenced by:

- The lack of emphasis on missions by many Churches
- The lack of interest in missions by many Christians
- The lack of response to missions by many Christians

The reason why missions should be loved and practiced by every local church and every child of God is because **MISSIONS IS ALL ABOUT THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST REACHING INTO THE LIVES OF LOST SINNERS**. Today we are going to examine one verse of scripture that should motivate each of us to advance regularly in our knowledge and practice of MISSIONS....It is ROMANS 1:16.

DEFINITION OF MISSIONS: THE LOCAL CHURCH, MADE UP OF INDIVIDUAL BELIEVERS IN JESUS CHRIST, INVOLVED IN FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION OF EVANGELISM, CHURCH PLANTING, DISCIPLESHIP AND RELATED MINISTRIES.

- NOTE MATTHEW 28:18-20

DEFINITION OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST: THE GOOD NEWS OF THE DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST, WHICH HAS THE POWER TO SAVE ALL PEOPLE WHO RECEIVE IT FROM THE ETERNAL WRATH OF GOD IN HELL, TO THE ETERNAL BLISS OF GOD IN HEAVEN.

OBSERVATION: ANYTHING THAT IS CALLED MISSIONS WITHOUT BEING CENTERED AROUND THE GOSPEL IS NOT MISSIONS FROM THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE. TRUE MISSIONS INVOLVES PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST TO ALL THE SPIRITUALLY LOST PEOPLE OF THE WORLD AND THEN PROVIDING THE BASIS FOR THEIR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE HEART OF MISSIONS IS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

I. THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IS NOT TO BE ASHAMED OF BY BELIEVERS

"I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST"

A. Paul was NOT ASHAMED of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

1. He was stoned at Lystra for the Gospel – Acts 14:19
2. He was imprisoned at Philippi for the Gospel – Acts 16:23,24
3. He was chased out of Thessalonica for the Gospel – Acts 17:10
4. He was smuggled out of Berea for the Gospel – Acts 17:14
5. He was laughed at in Athens for the Gospel – Acts 17:32

IN LIGHT OF ALL OF THIS, HE WAS EAGER TO PREACH THE GOSPEL AT ROME, WHICH WAS THE CENTER OF CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL POWER AND PAGAN RELIGION. NEITHER RIDICULE, CRITICISM NOR PHYSICAL PERSECUTION COULD CURB HIS BOLDNESS TO PREACH THE GOSPEL.

B. Believers SHOULD NOT BE ASHAMED of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

WE ARE SAVED FROM SIN FOR ALL ETERNITY BECAUSE OF THE GOSPEL

II. THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION

"IT IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION"

A. "The Power of God"

NOTE: The word "POWER" comes from the Greek Word "DUNAMIS."

1. Though the Gospel may sound foolish to some, it is powerful because it brings the OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD with it.

2. Only GOD'S POWER is able to overcome man's sinful nature and give him **NEW LIFE – JOHN 1:12; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17**

B. "Unto Salvation"

1. Used five times in Romans and basically means **"DELIVERANCE" OR "RESCUE."**
2. The Power of the Gospel through **SALVATION** delivers believers from:
 - a. From Spiritual Lostness – Matthew 18:11
 - b. From the Wrath of God – Romans 5:9
 - c. From the Power of Spiritual Darkness – Colossians 1:13
 - d. From the Ultimate Separation from God and Eternal Punishment
-Revelation 20:14,15

III. THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IS APPLICABLE TO ALL PEOPLE

"TO EVERYONE THAT BELIEVETH"

NOTE: To "BELIEVE" means **TO TRUST, TO RELY UPON, TO HAVE FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST AND INVOLVES THREE ELEMENTS:**

- The Mental Element – **The Mind understanding the truth of the Gospel and the truth about Jesus Christ.**
- The Emotional Element – **The embracing of the reality that Jesus Christ IS the Savior of the World and can save anyone.**
- The Willful Element – **The actual TRUSTING JESUS CHRIST ALONE for the complete salvation of sin.**

A. To the Jew First – The Gospel came **FIRST** to the Jewish people through Jesus Christ, but they rejected Him – John 1:11

B. To the Greek – All those who are not Jews – John 1:12

APPLICATION AND LESSON

- 1) All people need to hear the message of the Gospel
- 2) All Christians should proclaim the message of the Gospel
- 3) All Churches should promote the message of the Gospel

THIS IS WHAT MISSIONS IS ALL ABOUT – TAKING THE GOSPEL TO EVERYONE THAT UPON HEARING IT THEY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRUST JESUS CHRIST ALONE AS THEIR SAVIOR AND SPEND ETERNITY WITH HIM IN HEAVEN.

DO YOUR PART IN MISSIONS BY BECOMING INFORMED, AND THEN BY BEING WILLING TO PRAY AND GIVE AND GO WITH THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD IN ORDER TO FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION!