

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Larry R. Ping II

Paul penned, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek*” (Rom. 1:16).

Similarly, James wrote, “*Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls*” (Jam. 1:21). The words “power” and “able” in these verses carry with them the idea of “force” and “ability. That is, the Gospel is so full of force and power, it has the ability to change one’s life and eternal course. Have you considered the power of God’s Word?

1) GOD’S WORD CHANGED THOSE WHO CRUCIFIED CHRIST.

Near the end of Peter’s great Pentecost sermon, he remarked, “*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked*

in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do” (Acts 2:36-37)? If God’s Word can change those responsible for crucifying Christ, it can change you!

2) GOD’S WORD CHANGED A SORCERER.

As Philip came to Samaria, he encountered “*Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one*” (Acts 8:9). Yet later it is written, “*Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized*” (Acts 8:13). If God’s Word can change a sorcerer, it can change you!

3) GOD’S WORD CHANGED A GOVERNMENT WORKER.

Philip was instructed to go and join himself to the “*man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure*” (Acts 8:27). After having been taught “*Jesus*” (Acts 8:35), the eunuch confessed “*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of*

God” (Acts 8:37), Philip baptized him (Acts 8:38-39) and he went on his way rejoicing. If God’s Word can change a government worker, it can change you!

4) GOD’S WORD CHANGED A PERSECUTOR.

Saul was “*breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord*” (Acts 9:1). Nevertheless, he, after hearing the Gospel through Ananias, was baptized (Acts 22:16). If God’s Word can change a persecutor, it can change you!

5) GOD’S WORD CHANGED A MILITARY MAN.

Acts 10 records the conversion of Cornelius, “*a centurion of the band called the Italian band.*” Peter preached to Cornelius and his family and “*commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord*” (Acts 10:48). If God’s Word can change a military man, it can change you!

May we let God’s Word do its powerful and able work, and stay out of its way!

THE GREAT GIVER, GOD!

Larry R. Ping II

Among the world's greatest givers, none come close to matching the giving of God. It is impossible to out-give God! Now and then, it would serve us well to pause and ponder what God has given. God gives...

1) LIFE UNTO THE WORLD. Jesus confirmed this in saying *"For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world"* (Jn. 6:33). God saw fit to send His Son Who said, *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"* (Jn. 10:10). This life is that which comes after this earthly sojourning is complete. Jesus said to Martha, *"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live"* (Jn. 11:25).

2) THE INCREASE. The Corinthian brethren were issued a Divine rule which stands true today. *"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase"* (I Cor. 3:6). May we mind our responsibility to plant and

water the seed, and allow God to mind His! May we not be caught up in numbers, but be busy speaking *"forth the words of truth and soberness"* (Acts 26:25).

3) THE VICTORY. In the grand resurrection chapter Paul pens *"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (I Cor. 15:57). The victory is over sin, the *"sting of death"* (I Cor. 15:56) and is the *"victory that overcometh the world, even our faith"* (I Jn. 5:4).

4) WISDOM. James taught *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him"* (Jam. 1:5). Wisdom is knowledge applied. God provides every opportunity in His Word for our knowledge and wisdom to increase. It is done through study (II Tim. 2:15) and daily searching of God's Word (Acts 17:11). Remember, *"wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it"* (Prov. 8:11).

5) GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. James reported *"God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble"* (Jam. 4:6). Peter said the same in I Pet. 5:5. Grace is favor shown by God which man does not deserve or earn. For example, *"Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord"* (Gen. 6:8). Paul told Titus *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men"* (Titus 2:11). Though it has been made available to all men, it must be accessed *"by faith"* (Rom. 5:2).

6) ABILITY. Peter pronounced *"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen"* (I Pet. 4:11). When God provides a man with a certain ability, it needs to be used in the service of the Lord. May I use the ability God gives, and *"do it with thy might"* (Eccl. 9:10). May you determine to do the same!

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm