

# GOD'S WORD, GOD'S POWER

## Introduction

- A. Text: Mt. 17:5.
- B. Following the pronouncement at the Transfiguration that Jesus was His beloved Son, God said, "Hear Him!"
- C. The *willingness to hear* is critically important because salvation in Christ depends on our hearing of the words of Christ - Jn. 12:47,48.
- D. Yet many today refuse to listen — and many others believe something more than the gospel is needed to save them.
- E. In considering this, look first at how God has provided salvation for mankind.

## I. GOD'S PROVISION OF SALVATION FOR MANKIND

- A. In Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, God did what had to be done if we were to be saved from sin — and He did what we could not have done for ourselves.
  - 1. The problem was sin and death - Gen. 2:16,17; Isa. 59:1,2; Rom 6:23. Cf. Gen. 3:15.
  - 2. God's answer was the giving of His sinless Son as an atonement for our sins - Rom. 5:6-11.
- B. God provided the apostles as authoritative witnesses of what He had done - Jn. 17:20; Ac. 1:8,22; 2:32; 5:32; 10:39-42; 2 Cor. 5:18-20. Cf. Ac. 3:15; 4:33; etc.
- C. The preaching of these witnesses was confirmed by miracles - 2 Cor. 12:12; 1 Thess. 1:5.
  - 1. The apostles were guided into all truth - Jn. 14:26; 15:26,27; 16:13.
  - 2. The preaching of the truth by the apostles was confirmed miraculously by God - Hb. 2:1-4.

## II. OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S PROVISION

- A. Today, we can *hear*, *believe*, and *obey* the message that was preached by the apostles. Cf. Ac. 11:20,21.
- B. When we respond in this way, we are *saved* by what God did in Jesus Christ - Col. 2:12. Cf. Rom. 6:17,18; 2 Thess. 2:13,14.
  - 1. Example: the Ethiopian eunuch - Ac. 8:35-38.
  - 2. Example: Cornelius - Ac. 10:5,6,22,33; 11:13,14.
- C. A summary of this process is given in Rom. 10:8-17.

## III. WHAT ABOUT APOSTLES AND MIRACLES TODAY?

- A. It would not be correct to say that we do not need apostles and miracles today.
- B. The truth is that *we still have today* the finished work of the apostles of Christ - 1 Cor. 13:8-10.
- C. The "foundation" remains exactly where it has been since the first century - Eph. 2:20.

#### IV. THE WORD OF GOD, GOD'S POWER TO SAVE

- A. The word of the gospel is God's power to save - Rom. 1:16.
  - 1. As the symbols of ideas, *words* are extremely important.
  - 2. Quite obviously, *God's words* are the most important words of all - Jn. 17:7,8; Eph. 6:17; Hb. 4:12; 1 Pt. 1:22-25.
  - 3. It is the truth of Jesus' words that gives us life - Jn. 6:44,45,63,68.
  - 4. If it is Satan's *lies* that produce the problem of sin, it makes sense that it is God's *truth* that makes us free. Cf. 2 Cor. 10:4,5.
    - a. *Untruth* > sin, death, and condemnation. Cf. Jn. 8:44.
    - b. *Truth* > righteousness, life, and salvation. Cf. Jn. 8:30-32.
- B. God's word is able to make us "wise for salvation" (2 Tim. 3:14-17).

#### V. THE DANGER OF DISCONTENT WITH GOD'S PLAN

- A. Many seem to be less than satisfied with the simple beauty, wisdom, and power of God's plan - 1 Cor. 1:18-25.
- B. Even so, we must "preach" only Christ and Him crucified - 1 Cor. 2:1,2.

#### Conclusion

- A. Even the powerful words of God cannot save if they are not *obeyed* - Hb. 5:9. Cf. Jas. 1:21,22.
- B. We need to "take heed" how we hear Jesus - Lk. 8:18.
- C. Will you *hear* and *obey*? Will you simply *obey the gospel*? Will you simply be a member of Christ's church?

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