



CONNECTION

February, 2017

“The Gospel is the Power of God for Salvation”

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ...

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” (Rom 1:1–6, 16-17 ESV)

The gospel is our focus for 2017. To be sure, the good news of Christ deserves to be at the center of our lives every year, at every moment. But I believe that we need to grow in our understanding of the truth of the gospel, and to experience God's saving power more fully. So many Bible passages, books, prayers and conversations have been pointing to the importance of the gospel.

The gospel is God's gracious announcement to us. Our Savior had died for our sins, and in risen to give life everlasting to all who trust in him.

The gospel is God's power to save us. It can renew our minds, encourage our fearful hearts, and enable us to live by faith.

The gospel is a great treasure, but we can take it for granted and let it be far from our minds. We know we came to be Christians by believing in the gospel of Jesus. That work is not done. God continues to work in us through the gospel, and we need to continue to remind ourselves of the gospel. We need to pray it and preach it to ourselves daily. That is my big prayer for us as a congregation this year. May God touch us daily with the power of the gospel so that we might live by faith.

This is the key verse: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” We will take time to pray for this, and to learn about this gospel power as we hear and respond to God's word. That is my aim for the whole year. We can begin now by keeping this verse before us. May God fill our minds and hearts and worship and conversations and service with the saving power of the gospel.

Yours, in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave".

Pastor Dave

Men's Bible Study

The Men's First Saturday Bible Study resume on February 4 at 9:00 am in the church Lounge. We will be finishing up the book of Hosea, chapters 13 and 14.

Upcoming Sermons

February 5

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Luke 15:1-10

"Lost and Found"

⁶ 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. (Luke 15:6–7 ESV)

February 12

Numbers 13:26-33

"The Grasshopper Syndrome"

Guest Preacher: Graham Barker

February 19

Luke 15:11-32

"The Prodigal Son"

²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. (Luke 15:21–24 ESV)

February 26

Luke 16:1-9

"The Dishonest Manager"

⁸ The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. (Luke 16:8–9 ESV)