

Banner: THE SURE WORD

By Jonnie Hutchison

Title: "Power of the Gospel"

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is powerful! When Paul, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote to the church in Rome he declared, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek". (Romans 1:16). The book of Hebrews tells us, "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12). Now that is powerful! The gospel has the power to save in the message it presents. The message is the good news of salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ, including man's response in obedience to what God requires to reach the cleansing blood of Jesus. It was this gospel, the original gospel, that Paul preached and of which he was not ashamed because he has also been the beneficiary of this saving message and personally knew its power to save (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 1 Timothy 1:13-15).

When the gospel in its original form is proclaimed there is power to save. However, if that original gospel is added to, subtracted from or substituted for, it ceases to be the original gospel and thus all power to save is lost. That is why Paul wrote to the Galatians warning them against accepting a "different gospel" (a perversion of the original) declaring, "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:6-9). No friends, not even an apostle or an angel would have the authority to change the original gospel of Christ. What makes us think that we can do so without suffering the curse of this passage? If one cannot find his or her religious beliefs and practices in the New Testament – the original gospel – then obviously, he or she has accepted a different gospel.

Beginning on Sunday April 9th the Green Plain church of Christ offers all who will come the opportunity to hear the original gospel of Christ preached in a series of gospel meetings by Jerry Noblin of Columbus, GA. Jerry is a capable and faithful gospel preacher who will present saving message of the original gospel of Christ. This series of meetings will continue each evening at 7:00 pm through Thursday, April 13th. Sunday services are at 10:00 am; 10:45 am and evening services are at 7:30 PM. A covered dish dinner will be served after the morning services. For more information visit our webpage at <http://greenplainchurchofchrist.org> or call 270-492-8206. We hope you will come and be our honored guests. May God bless you consistent with His divine will.