

THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

By Keith Greer

One of the hot topics in religious circles, even among God's own people: How do we convert others to Christ? Sadly, many have sought answers outside of His word.

Could the Social Gospel be the answer? This is the "whole – man" concept where we try to help others with their physical needs: food, recreation, and entertainment. In the local paper the other day, I read where the Baptist church is planning to build a "super – complex": day care center, gym, family center, sound recording studio, and of course a new auditorium-all to meet the needs of the people of their community.

My questions are simple ones: Does the Social Gospel meet the greatest need of man-- a way out of sin? Does it meet their spiritual needs? Does it feed the soul? Before you shake your head at the Baptists, you need to know that many brethren are following the same path: gyms, family life centers, drug and alcohol rehab centers, counseling of all sorts and a host of other social programs. Does this sound like the church which Jesus died for?

When will man understand the fundamental point that God knows what he needs. Who created him? Who placed him on the earth? Please listen carefully to these words of old:

"O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps." {Jeremiah 10:23}

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. "{Isaiah 55:8,9}

"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." {Isaiah 55:11} God knows what He is doing! Trust Him and not your own wisdom.

When we turn our attention to the writers of the New Testament, the message is the same. Remember, man has not changed nor has his greatest need – salvation!

"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}

"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."{James 1: 21}

"For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe."{1 Corinthians 1:21}

"So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."{Acts 20:32}

God did not place the attraction for the souls of men in programs, human needs, wisdom of men, or in preachers. From the beginning of time the power of God has been the same. **HIS WORD!**

In the first century the church grew by leaps and bounds. "If indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister."{Colossians 1:23} God's word is still the key today. Yes, men have always thought with human wisdom that they could do things "better" than the plans of God. Bigger, better, more efficient and effective than these "old outdated plans" so they tell us. Why not give God's way a try! ***