



¹⁶For 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.** ¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” (ESV)

The gospel itself *is* the power of God for salvation.

- It is not telling us what we have to do.
- It is not a mere message, though it is that (1 Cor. 1:18-25; Eph. 1:19-20; 2:10; Phil. 1:6; 2:13; 1Pet. 1:5).

Salvation is **God's** mighty working in us through and by means of the gospel (Eph. 1:3-10).

- All that He determined before the foundation of the universe
- All that He has planned
- All that He has brought to pass
- All that He has done
- All that He will yet do through Christ in the Spirit

The Golden Chain. Powerful, efficacious, irresistible! (Rom. 8:28-30)

If salvation is all of God, can you do anything to earn it? (Eph. 2:8-9) Can you lose it? (John 10:27-30)

Our salvation is certain because it is of God alone. There are no contingencies! (Rom. 8:31-38).

The gospel is the power of God and does not depend on you or your faithfulness. He justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies. (Isa. 46:9-10).

To the Jew first...

Why?

- A simple matter of history (Acts 1:8).
- Some believed that the Jews were saved already, and this gospel was just for the Gentiles as they were considered out of God's fold.

Do you know anyone who was brought up in the church, goes to Sunday school, is good, moral, decent, and *damned* by his self-righteousness? That's a Jew!

There is hope in the gospel for all, because it is the power of God for salvation!