

the warrant it gives us for making the gospel story the main spring of Christian teaching.

There is another important truth in the text which we must not overlook. "The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." You will notice that the gospel must be believed if its power is to be felt. The gospel message, proclaimed in your hearing from time to time, is not going to act as a charm to make you better men and women whether you wish it or not. God is not going to force you to do right against your will; but he has provided the means to lead all men to right thinking and right living if they will only be led. Of all these means, which he is pleased to use in leading men into His Kingdom, none is more potent than a proclamation of the gospel of Christ, for it has proved to be "the power of God unto salvation to every one" who has believed it; whether old or young, educated or uneducated, Jew or Greek, bond or free.

Now, if the gospel has proved the power of God unto salvation to every one who has believed it; if it has ennobled the lives of men in all ages and in all lands, why should we not each and all believe it? Why should it be thought a thing incredible that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life"? This is the essence of the gospel. This, indeed, is the gospel which is preached, and which all are asked to believe. It is belief in this great and glorious truth that will free you from the power of sin and Satan, and make you an honored servant of God to do His will.

In conclusion, let me ask you, my hearers: Is the gospel the power of God unto salvation to you? If not, why not?