

"THE AMAZING POWER OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST!"

by Mark Legendre

INTRODUCTION:

Suppose someone was to "tell you point blank that you were guilty of causing an innocent man to be put to death", what would your reaction be?

And suppose this same person "then proved to you beyond all shadow of a doubt that this innocent person you were responsible for causing to die was the very person that you had been looking for as the Messiah", how would you react then?

This is the "situation that we see taking place in Acts 2 when the Apostle Peter preaches the gospel of Christ to his Jewish brethren in the city of Jerusalem." (Acts 2:22-47)

WHAT WAS THE REACTION OF THE JEWS?

1. Some of them were "overwhelmed with grief" for what they had done. (Acts 2:37)
2. This same group of people was then "filled with gladness" as well. (Acts 2:38-47)
3. Such is the "nature of the gospel of Christ"; it has the power to "convict people of sin, thus causing sorrow"; and it also has the "power to cause much gladness because of the hope that it has to offer afterwards." (Jn. 16:8 & Acts 2:4; Rom. 1:16 & Col. 1:5)

LOOK AT ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST! (Acts 8:26-39)

1. The Ethiopian eunuch was "confused by what he was reading." (Acts 8:28-34)
2. Philip "explained the scriptures to the eunuch." (Vs. 35)

3. The eunuch was "able to understand the application of Isaiah 53 and how it was fulfilled in Christ and the gospel." (Vs. 36-38)
4. Philip "took the eunuch from a state of confusion & ignorance to a state of understanding & joy through the preaching of the gospel of Christ." (Acts 8:30-39)
5. The "gospel is a message THAT CAN BE UNDERSTOOD!" (Eph. 3:3-6; 1 John 5:20; Acts 17:10-12)

A MAN ON THE BRINK OF SUICIDE! (Acts 16:16-27)

1. The "Philippian jailor had locked up Paul & Silas in the inner prison and put them in chains." (Vs.23-24)
2. A "great earthquake took place, which opened the doors of the prison; the eunuch therefore thought that all the prisoners had escaped while he slept and he would therefore be executed for dereliction of duty." (vs. 26-27)
3. He was "going to commit suicide." (Vs. 27)
4. Paul "kept the jailor from killing himself; then preached the gospel of Christ to him and his household and they became Christians." (Vs. 28-34)
5. Thus, the "gospel of Christ took a man filled with sorrow who was about to commit suicide to a state of faith and great rejoicing."
6. The "gospel of Christ does indeed give a person a reason to want to live!" (Rom. 1:16; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27)

THE INVITATION! (Rom. 3:23; 6:23; Heb. 5:9)