

## THE WORD OF GOD HAS POWER TO SAVE

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Isaiah 55:10-

Dear Friends in Christ:

We today have the same problem as did the people of Isaiah's day. Sin. The 12 tribes of Israel were attacked by foreign nations and destroyed as a nation because they rejected God's word and invitation to be God's own people.

The Word of God is in the world today, as it was then, God's invitation to be people to be His own special people who will one day inherit eternal life. Who would not want that?

In our Gospel today, Jesus paints a word picture of how the Word of God is at work in the world of man.

Jesus is on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and He gets into a boat to speak to the large crowd on the shore. He tells them the parable of the sower and the seed. A parable is a story taken from everyday life to make a point. A parable tells us how God is at work in the world to restore paradise.

The parable is about a farmer who goes out to sow seed by hand into his field. Some seed falls on good ground and eventually produces a crop. But some seed falls on rocky ground or on the path and produces little or no crop.

Jesus explains the parable saying that the field is the heart of man, the seed is the Word of God and the sower is God Himself.

Only the seed that fall on good ground, a receptive heart, will produce the fruit of good works. The seed that falls on rocky ground and on the path produce little or no good works because the heart was not receptive to God.

Not everyone then or now recognizes the Word of God as the Word of God that can save from sin, death and the devil.

In fact, there is nothing else in all the world that can save a person from eternal damnation in hell. Only the Word of God has the power to save.

On that day, at the Sea of Galilee, Jesus exposed the hardened hearts and minds of people from whom God had withdrawn His grace. Their fate was sealed. Why? They had rejected God's gracious invitation to be a part of God's Kingdom and the offer of free forgiveness and eternal life.

Only God can save-----If you throw a drowning man a life preserver and he ignores it---what else can you do? He will drown because he refused the offer of help.

God is both just and loving, as it is written: "The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished" (Numbers 14:18)

God punishes sin, but He also loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

God stretches out His loving arms to all thru His Word in Scriptures, but when people reject God's love, they also reject His salvation.

The problem is not God's lack of love but their own hard hearts that refuse God's love and invitation. And therefore, after continual rejection or indifference to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the same Gospel will stand as a testimony against them, as Jesus Himself says, "There is a judge for the one who rejects Me and does not accept My words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day."

The comforting thing for us to remember is that God's Word always accomplishes what God wants it to. Maybe not at the speed we want all the time. It's like when you plant a seed; it takes time to come up and grow.

Are you working on someone right now---trying to get them to come to church? Be patient. Your prayers are like water that causes growth.

The biggest worry we all have is this: What do I say to someone who appears to not care about their eternal soul? Just say what God says in the Bible---the Basic Instruction Book Before Leaving Earth.

We don't make the difference but God's Word does. We are to warn the indifferent judgment day is coming for all of us and only those who look to Jesus as their Savior will be given eternal life as a gift from our loving God.

John 3:16 is the Gospel in a nutshell and makes it plain ----  
"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

We are God's instruments to plant the seed using His Word and the Holy Spirit causes the seed to grow into saving faith.

Take the case of Augustine, who lived from 354-430 A.D. He became involved in a sinful life-style as a young man. His mother Monica prayed for him for over 10 years before the Holy Spirit, thru the Word of God and prayer brought him to his senses. He became an important church father and the leading theologian in Africa.

Martin Luther learned much of his theology from the writings of Augustine, especially on the topic of free will.

So, every time you and I are reading or listening to God's Word, the power of God is at work to show us our sin and to show us our Savior. The result, by the grace of God, is a clearer picture

of the deadliness of sin and of the love of God in sending His only Son to die to save the human race from eternal damnation.

This Holy Bible is a life-saver. The power of Almighty God is right here for you and I to grow by and for the saving of souls.

May we never be ashamed to speak God's saving Word to perishing souls. Amen