

# The “Relevantly Potent” Gospel

## *Proclaiming the Real Good News*

### A “Relevantly Potent” Mission

#### Luke 4

<sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,  
Because He has anointed Me  
To preach the gospel to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;  
<sup>19</sup>To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

#### Mark 16

<sup>15</sup>And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup>He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup>And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; <sup>18</sup>they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

<sup>20</sup>And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

### A “Relevantly Potent” Message

#### 1 Corinthians 4

<sup>20</sup>For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

#### 1 Corinthians 2

<sup>1</sup>And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup>For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. <sup>3</sup>I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

### “Relevantly Potent” Evidence

#### Luke 7

<sup>20</sup>When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?""

<sup>21</sup>And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.

<sup>22</sup>Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

***Have we (as Christians and as Christian churches) substituted relevance for the presence and power of God? Are we proclaiming a gospel of "how can we make you feel at home and comfortable" instead of proclaiming "the kingdom of God is at hand"? There is nothing more relevant to an unbeliever than: release from captivity, healing of spirit, soul and body, freedom from oppression, and forgiveness of sin (Luke 4:18-19).***

***Are we trying to talk a relevant gospel so people will be attracted to Christ? Or are we, in compassion, seeking to meet people's spiritual, emotional, and physical needs with God's presence and power? If our bridge-building relevance is simply a fish-catching exercise, it may prove to be worthless to the building of God's kingdom; but if the fishermen are using "relevancy" as their bait to draw unbelievers in so the kingdom can be explicated and demonstrated to their lives, I'm all for it. God wants to reach peoples' hearts and meet their deepest needs, and when He does, they will not be following just another religion that meets their felt-needs; they will be following the One Who cares enough for them to touch them deeply and completely.***