

THE POWER OF INFLUENCE 2

Romans 1:16

INTRODUCTION

- A. Influence defined:
 - 1. "To have an effect on something; power to sway" (Encarta Dictionary).
 - 2. "The act or power of producing an effect without apparent exertion or force or direct exercise of command" (Merriam-Webster).
- B. Our text.

DISCUSSION

- I. THE INFLUENCE OF THE GOSPEL OF THE CHRIST.
 - A. Contrasted with the corrupting influence of sin and error. 1 CO 5:6-8; CO 1:3-6.
 - B. We have the power to change.
 - 1. Power to change the mind. EP 4:20-23; Cf. Paul – Acts 26:9.
 - 2. Power to change conduct. EP 4:24; 5:8-10; Cf. Paul – Acts 9:1, 20-21.
 - 3. Power to change spiritual condition (from death to life), 2 TI 1:10; Cf. Paul – Acts 22:14-16; RO 6:4.
 - 4. Power to change darkness to light. 2 CO 4:3-4.
- II. THE POWER OF GODLY INFLUENCES.
 - A. The flavoring and preserving power of a godly influence. MT 5:13; MK 9:50.
 - 1. Flavor your environment with words of goodness and deeds of kindness. CO 4:5-6; PR 15:1-2.
 - 2. Preserve godliness in a world of sin and wrath. EK 22:30; 1 PE 2:11-12.
 - B. The saving power of a godly influence. 1 PE 3:1-2; 2:11-12. Turn the attention of the lost to the saving Gospel of Christ.
 - C. Encouraging power of a godly influence. 2 CO 9:1-2; HE 10:24-25. Your zeal to be faithful will stir up others.
 - D. Evangelizing power of a godly influence. 1 TH 1:8-10; JN 1:43-46. The news of conversions influences others to greater faith.
 - E. Posthumous power of a godly influence. HE 11:4. Your influence will live after you are gone.

CONCLUSION – The Power of Influence.

- A. Let no one say, "I have no influence!" As surely as the sun influences the earth, your life influences many people in unseen ways.
- B. Let no one say, "I am not influenced by others!" As surely as the moon influences the tides, you are influenced by the people around you and the values they hold.
- C. Pursue the influence of godliness and flee the influence of the world. 1 TI 6:11. Cf. RO 12:20-21.