

### WHAT AN HONOR!

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Paul wrote, “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us” (2 Cor. 4:6-7). The apostles were average men of Galilee who were chosen by Christ and authorized to go into the world and preach the Gospel to “every creature” (Mk. 16:15). However, that command was not just given to the chosen twelve, it is also a commandment by which all Christians today are to abide. In Matthew’s account of the Gospel, he recorded, “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world.** Amen” (Mt. 28:18-20).

It is apparent that if the apostles were to teach “all things,” then going into the world and preaching the Gospel is part of that, and what an honor! The treasure that was entrusted to earthen vessels was the Gospel that was given to men, and in turn they were to teach others (2 Tim. 2:2). Because of that, Paul exclaimed, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Rom. 1:16). Not one single time did God ever send an angel to deliver the Gospel message to any sinner so they could gain salvation! Never was there an instance of the Holy Spirit coming upon a lost soul with the message of life!

In every case of conversion in the Bible, a person taught another person what they needed to do in order to gain the promise of salvation. On the Day of Pentecost, those listening to the apostles preach asked, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do” (Acts 2:37)? In response to that, Peter commanded, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38). Also, because of the great persecution at Jerusalem, the Gospel spread into other parts of the world. Luke recorded, “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did” (Acts 8:4-6). It is clear, isn’t it? It took the words spoken by men to convey the holy message of heaven, not a direct operation of the Holy Spirit. What an honor to be the medium through which God speaks to the lost! In all the other accounts of conversion in Acts, the message was delivered in the exact same way (Acts 8:26-40; 10; 11; 16:12-15, 19-34; 18:1-8; 9; 22; 26).

Any time a person is converted to Christ, they receive a priceless treasure that was delivered in an earthen vessel. One of the great things about obeying the Gospel and becoming a New Testament Christian is that the new Christian becomes a vessel of God, also! It truly is an honor to be able to preach to others “the unsearchable riches of Christ” (Eph. 3:8). If any have not accepted the honor of being added to the Lord’s church, by God Himself (Acts 2:47), do it before time runs out and Jesus returns. Place yourself in a position to “love His appearing” (2 Tim. 4:8), instead of it being a “fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb. 10:31).