

# GOD-SHAPED in 2014

## *What Does It Mean to be Gospel-Empowered?*

- A. *Empowered*: to be given ability or opportunity; to be entrusted, equipped, enabled, or strengthened.
- B. We're often encouraged to feel "empowered" when it comes to our rights, physical fitness, past, etc.
- C. The Father-defined, Christ-centered, and Spirit-led are empowered in ways that truly matter most.

### I. The \_\_\_\_\_: From Self-Centeredness and Shame to Self-Sacrifice and Boldness

- A. In *Mark 9:30-37*, we find the apostles arguing amongst themselves as to who was the greatest.
- B. In *Mark 13:9-13*, Jesus warns his apostles of very difficult challenges in the years to come.
- C. In *Mark 14:22-31*, Jesus warns the same men about difficult circumstances in the *hours* to come.
  - 1. And just as Jesus had foretold, "*they all left him and \_\_\_\_\_*" (*Mark 14:50*).
  - 2. Despite his emphatic assurances, Peter swore, "*I do not \_\_\_\_\_ this man*" (*Mark 14:66-72*).
- D. In *Mark 16*, on a first day of the week, the bedrock of the gospel began to be proclaimed.
  - 1. In *1 Corinthians 15:1-11*, Paul (formerly Saul of Tarsus) reminds Christians of the gospel.
  - 2. In *2 Corinthians 5:17-21*, he summarizes the appeal of the gospel.
  - 3. In *Romans 1:15-17*, he describes why he is eager to preach the gospel even in Rome.
- E. The gospel moved these men from self-centeredness and shame to self-sacrifice and boldness!
  - 1. The example of Peter (*Acts 2:36; 3:14-15; 4:12-13; 1 Pet 3:13-15*).
  - 2. The example of Paul (*Acts 8:1; 9:1-2; 1 Cor 15:8-9; 1 Tim 1:12-17; Acts 28:30-31*)
- F. *1 Thessalonians 2:1-8* encapsulates the impact of the gospel on the lives of the apostles.
  - 1. Suffering at the hands of men, but \_\_\_\_\_ in God.
  - 2. In the midst of much conflict with men, but declaring the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - 3. Shamefully treated by men, but \_\_\_\_\_ by God.
  - 4. Surrounded by the errors and impurities of men, but entrusted with good \_\_\_\_\_ from God.
  - 5. Once self-centered and full of shame, now ready to share the gospel and \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. "What You Have Heard From Me...Entrust to Faithful Men Who Will Be Able to Teach Others"

- A. A God-shaped chain (*2 Tim 2:1-2*) that has extended for centuries.
  - 1. Boldness and confident access through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord (*Eph 3:1-12*).
  - 2. The Lord's word sounding forth and faith in God that is going everywhere (*1 Thes 1:2-10*).
- B. "Let your light \_\_\_\_\_ before others..." (*Matt 5:14-16*).