

THE POWER OF ONE

INTRODUCTION

The subject of our lesson today is, "THE POWER OF ONE." The word "one" first appears in Gen. 1:9, where God gathered all the waters below the firmament into "one" place, so as to make the dry land appear and He could continue in His creation. THEN, the word "one" appears many many times throughout the Bible.

The word "one" is a very powerful word, as it can refer to the **beginning** of something, or the **power** of something when combined with various ingredients. Now, let's consider THE POWER OF ONE.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, the POWER OF THE ONE GOD.

A. He claims to be and **is** the only true God of the universe. Isa. 45:14, 18, 21, 22

B. All other so-called "gods" are pretenders and powerless, and are made and idolized by man.

1. Idols are nothing, and have **no** power. 1 Cor. 8:4-6; Psa. 89:6-8; 135:15-18

2. God demonstrated His power in the creation of the universe, consisting of all things material.

a. He made the heavens and earth for man's benefit, and His own glory. Gen. 1:1; Isa. 45:18; Psa. 136:4-9

b. God spoke, and in His wisdom and power, everything came into existence, with the power to continue and reproduce itself, as long as the earth remains. Psa. 33:6-9

II. 2nd, the POWER OF THE ONE SAVIOR.

A. Jesus is declared to be, and **is** the only Savior of the world. John 4:42; 1 Tim. 2:5; 4:10; John 14:6

B. HOW is Christ the ONE SAVIOR?

1. 1st, He saves by His **one blood**—and not animal blood. Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:12

2. 2nd, He saves by the **one gospel**. Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 1:16

3. 3rd, He saves in the **one body**, or church. Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4

4. 4th, He saves by the **obedience** on the part of man. Rom. 6:17-18; Mark 16:15-16

III. 3rd, the POWER OF ONE MISTAKE.

A. The one mistake of Adam and Eve; in the garden of Eden opened the door to sin that affects ALL mankind, as well as each and every one of us today.

1. Their sin brought their own expulsion from the garden of Eden, where disobedience and death began to be multiplied—even in their own immediate family, where false worship and murder began upon the earth.

2. They made sin available to man, who dies spiritually when he commits sin. Rom. 5:12

B. ONE mistake can lead to complete moral ruin or bring one under its power. 1 Cor. 6:12

1. The smoking of **one** cigarette has caused multiplied millions to become addicted to it's power, and an early death.

2. The viewing of one pornographic film has caused many to become enslaved to watching sex films continually, and addicted to the sin of fornication.

3. The experimental use of marijuana, or any drug, JUST ONE TIME, has enslaved and killed millions of people, and help create a homeless generation of citizens in our land.
4. Just **one** drink of alcohol is all it takes to bring on another and another and another, and finally to alcoholism and ruin.
 - a. Approximately one out of four people who take their one first drink will be hopelessly addicted to alcohol.
 - b. Some look upon a heavily intoxicated person and remark, "he just had one too many,' but which one—the first or the last?
5. Young people, think ahead and see what bad decisions have done to others, and don't start make a mistake today that you will regret tomorrow and forever.

C. A Bible instructor at Freed-Hardeman Christian University, Dr. Earl Edwards, recently made a public address there in their annual lectureship, and opened the door to the drinking of alcohol.

1. He said, "*Wishing to be perfectly candid, I would not tell a Christian who decides to go against my advice and drink small amounts of alcohol, maybe in his own home, that he has sinned with the first drink, though I would tell him he runs a greater risk of sinning,.*"
2. Here is my **reply** in the attachment, "HE HAS SINNED WITH THE FIRST DRINK."

IV. 4th, the POWER OF ONE ACTION or DECISION.

A. In a recent issue of *CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH*, there was an article written by brother Flavil Nichols many years ago. Here is the article in full.

"During the War Between the States, a young woman learned the truth and obeyed the gospel. Her sweetheart, J. H. Halbrook, was a Confederate soldier. He was captured by the Union army and kept prisoner in Michigan until the war was over. He was given a ticket to Nashville, Tennessee and \$2.50. From there, he returned to Centerville and found what was left of his home and family. He found his girlfriend and they were married. His wife studied the Bible with him and he soon became a Christian. He thought the truth was so good and so simple that he began to teach and baptize many of his friends and neighbors. He began to preach, but he recognized his need for more training, so he came to the original Mars Hill Bible School, taught by T. B. Larimore. Upon completing his studies there, instead of going back to Tennessee, they moved farther south, coming into Walker, Marion, Fayette, and Lamar counties in Alabama. One of many converts was Charley Alexander Wheeler. His wife taught him to read from the Bible. Along with his wife, C. A. Wheeler obeyed the Gospel and soon began preaching to others. He started more than 100 congregations and baptized more than 6,000 people.

"But wait, the story is not ended! One of those 6,000 was my father, the late Gus Nichols! Twelve thousand were baptized under his preaching. Among those baptized by Gus Nichols, no one knows, nor can know, how many began to preach "**the glorious gospel of Christ**" (2 Cor. 4:3-4); but I personally know several. I, Flavil Nichols, am ONE whom he baptized and whom he encouraged to preach the truth. And under my preaching, about three thousand have been baptized. A few of them preached the Gospel also!

"Only eternity can reveal the total results of the conversion of that one girl nearly one hundred and fifty years ago. The results are not yet all in! But this shows that TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND people have become Christians through this single thread in the fabric of her influence. "**Go, and do likewise**" (Luke 10:37). YOU are important too! Dear reader, if you go to heaven, others probably will be saved by you! Each ONE is very important. "**How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace...**" (Brother Nichols just passed away in recent months)

It was my privilege to know bro. Gus Nichols, as well as 2 of his sons, Flavil and Hardeman. I began preaching because of the influence of Hardeman, who caused me to enroll and study at Freed-Hardeman College in the 1950's, and there to be mentored by Flavil, who then preached in Jackson, Tennessee. The Nichol influence has become a vital part of my life as a gospel preacher.

- B. Every word or deed by any one of us, may well be the cause of much good, or evil.
 - 1. A good example is always the best. 1 Pet. 2:21; 1 Tim. 4:12
 - 2. We need always to let our light shine in a world of darkness. Matt. 5:16

CONCLUSION

- I. This life is filled with ONE opportunity to obey God and prepare for eternity itself.
 - A. This opportunity may be extended as long as we have life, but when we breathe our last breath, all opportunities have ended. Heb. 9:27
 - B. Today is the only day we have for sure in life. 2 Cor. 6:2
- II. If you need to make things right with your soul, we invite you to do so, right now, make the right decision, as we stand together and sing.

Don Tarbet