

Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)

The Gospel Power is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

**Anderson
church of Christ**
5900 Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

Visit Us On The Web
Anderson-church.org

Men Priviledged To Serve:
Sunday, October 15th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Lev. 6:8-18)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... Jonathan Keenon

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Prayer
..... Kevin Chancellor
Lord's Supper
Presiding Phil Pressnell
Assisting Jimmy Glass
Serving Jacob Rogers
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... Brad Hammond
..... James McConnell
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Lev. 6:19-30)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
..... Phil Pressnell
..... Jimmy Glass
Closing Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Volume XIII

October 15, 2006

No. 42

Understanding Baptism

David A. Cox

There are many people that have a misunderstanding of baptism and its connection with salvation. Many people will accept that there are some conditions of salvation, such as faith, confession, or repentance. However, they do not understand that the Bible teaches that baptism is essential for man is to be forgiven of his sins and be saved. Let us examine what the Bible teaches about Baptism and salvation so that we can understand baptism in God's plan.

Baptism Is An Act of Faith

In Colossians 2:12, we read, "*Buried with him in baptism, where in ye are risen with him through faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*" Paul is telling the Christians at Colosse that they were buried in baptism and at which time their sins were removed by faith in the working of God through Christ's death. To the Romans Paul wrote, "*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life*" (Romans 6:3-4). Again Paul describes baptism as being that which is done in faith because of the resurrection of Christ. In being baptized, those at Rome and Colosse had been buried with Christ and were to "walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4; cf. Colossians 3:1). Baptism is seen as being an action of faith in God and His power. By submitting to baptism by faith we become sharers in the new life and have the hope of eternal life.

Faith Makes Baptism Complete

The Hebrew writer wrote, "*Without faith it is impossible to*

please God...” (Hebrews 11:6) As faith is essential it is just as important to be obedient to God by faith in doing what He has commanded (James 1:22; 2:14-26). In John 3:5 Jesus told Nicodemus, “*Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*” On the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), the Jews that Peter was preaching to were convicted of their sins and this prompted them to ask, based on their faith that God had raised the crucified Christ from the dead, “What shall we do?” Peter responded, “*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins*” (Acts 2:37-38). Peter did not leave the impression at all that they were saved by their apparent faith. He did not describe baptism as an “outward sign” that their sins had been forgiven. Rather, Peter told them that in order to have their sins forgiven that they must “repent and be baptized”. Again, in the conversion of Saul, we have a man living “in all good conscience”, a religious man (Acts 22:3-5), and a praying man (Acts 9:11). Ananias comes into where Paul is and says, “*Why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord*” (Acts 22:16). The New Testament makes it clear that faith was present and that it was faith that caused Saul and those at Jerusalem on Pentecost to be buried in baptism to remove their sins.

Baptism’s Connection With Salvation

It seems clear that the Bible teaches that baptism and salvation are connected. Let us notice the connections made.

1. We know that in an unsaved state we do not have salvation because of our sins (Isaiah 59:1-2) and that our sins are forgiven or washed away at baptism (Acts 2:38; 22:16).
2. Our sins are forgiven because of the sacrifice of Christ and the shedding of His blood for our sins (1 Peter 2:22-24; 1 John 1:7; 2:2; Romans 6:3-4).
3. The connection Peter makes when speaking of Noah and his obedience to God’s

commands when he said, “*The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ*” (1 Peter 3:21).

4. The connection Jesus made when He gave the command “*he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, he that believeth not shall be damned*” (Mark 16:16).

The Bible is very clear and understandable in the connection between baptism and salvation. There is never any statement or evidence in the Bible that suggests baptism being “an outward sign of an inward grace”. Therefore, let us rest assured of what the Bible teaches. Let us follow its teachings faithfully and be assured that we are saved in the same manner as those in the first century.



Hurting Ourselves

Matt Hennecke

It was over a year ago, but something got me thinking about it recently. After Sunday evening worship, a group of us went to a local restaurant. This particular restaurant was noted for the hot, buffalo wings it served, in fact, they had degrees of wings rated according to the pain they might inflict. I can’t remember now, but the ratings were something like the following: mild, warm, hot, super hot and dangerous.

Now I have never been one to enjoy painful food. I figure if I want to suffer while eating, I can simply stab myself in the mouth with my fork. Accordingly, I ordered a salad. Others at

the table - mostly of the male persuasion - debated which level of pain to order. I'm not sure how it got out of hand, but eventually three of the males dared each other to order the "dangerous" wings. I sat in wonder. Why would anyone intentionally hurt himself?

After a twenty-minute wait the food for our table finally arrived. I enjoyed my salad. It was flavorful and more importantly didn't render me incapacitated. I enjoyed even more watching the self-inflicted pain experienced by my brothers in Christ. Three of them - the most competitive - proceeded to eat the dangerously hot wings. The results were predictable: faces turned bright red, beads of sweat popped out on their foreheads, gasps of agony were overheard, and large volumes of water were consumed in a futile attempt to quench the spicy fires burning in their mouths.

This wasn't dinner, this was a kind of last supper Armageddon - the end of taste buds and common sense as we know it. I watched in wonder and fascination.

I'm not sure what reminded me of the sight of these three people intentionally hurting themselves, but it got me thinking about spiritual matters and a spiritual application: Why is it that Christians - people who have been saved and who know better - will do things that hurt them? Why will they turn back to the world and to sin when they know better? Such spiritual self-destruction simply doesn't make sense. Peter put it in graphic, even sickening terms when he said, "If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit" (2 Peter 2:19-22)

Self destruction is, sadly, all too common

amongst Christians. We need to stop hurting ourselves by self indulgence and sin. You think hot wings are hot? Think again. There is some real heat awaiting those who refuse to serve the Lord. John tells us Jesus has "His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." (Luke 3:17)

- via *Weatherly Heights Bulletin*; Huntsville, Alabama.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Noah Lane Hammond* in in the PICU in Huntsville Hospital ... *Virginia Lovell* continues to be very weak and not able to be out ... *James and Freda McConnell* have been sick this past week unable to be at services... *Trent Thornton* is still having trouble with his ribs since reinjuring them a couple of weeks ago ... *Laurie Chancellor* has been sick this past week and was unable to be at services Wednesday night ... *Kevin Chancellor's father, Derek Chancellor*, will be going to the doctor about his arteries in his neck... *Charlotte Hall* will begin her treatments Monday in Birmingham ... *Myrtie Williams* is at home and not able to be out ... *Jack Tucker* is not able to be out ... *Larry Johnson* is confined at home ... *Faye Hammond* is at home ... *Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Jackson Drive church* in Athens is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday. They will meet this afternoon at 3:00. Monday through

through Friday services will begin at 7:00 p.m. *Leon Mauldin* will be the speaker in this meeting.

TUESDAY CLASSES: The starting of our Tuesday class has been delayed a week and will begin next Tuesday, October 24th. In these studies we will be beginning a series of classes on the *Kingdom of God* with emphasis on Premillennialism. *Bill Hall* will be the teaching the classes. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the vestibule if you are planning to attend.

BIBLE DRILL: Remember our Children's Bible Drill will be this afternoon at 5:30 p.m. We had a very good drill last month and I hope that all the children will be present.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Words Brian, Lisa, Michael, Corey and Olivia* have been visiting with family in Georgia this past week...*Steve Parker* and *Mark McIntyre* are in Maine today. Steve will be attending a class in Quebec City, Ontario due to his work...*The Clemmons: Marla, Lydia and Laura* have been out of town this past weekend.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Jimmie Lovell* and *Johnny Lovell* in the passing of their aunt, *Gladys Lovell*, Her funeral will be this afternoon in Athens.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will the time for Commuication Group three to meet. If you are in Group three, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of Oct. 8th

Sunday:

Bible Classes 107
Morning Worship 121
Evening Worship 92

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 80

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Michael Clemmons (256) 247-0836
Scottie Goode (931) 565-3391

Deacons

Jimmy Glass (256) 247-0571
Mark McIntyre (256) 233-1953
Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
Larry White (256) 247-0988
Brian Word (931) 565-3799

Evangelist & Editor

David A. Cox (256) 247-1049
Office-(256) 247-5539
E-mail address: daco@hiwaay.net

U.S. Postage
Paid
Bulk Rate
Anderson, Alabama
Non-Profit
Permit #6

Anderson church of Christ
P.O. Box 66
Anderson, Alabama 35610

Return Service Requested