

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 22nd

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Lev. 7:11-18)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
Presiding Scottie Goode
Assisting Jerry Dickey
Serving Corey Goode
..... Rodney McCrary
..... Tyler Cox
..... Jimmie Lovell
Closing Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Lev. 7:19-27)
..... Jonathan Keenon
Prayer
..... Steve Parker
Lord's Supper
..... Scottie Goode
..... Jerry Dickey
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Volume XIII

October 22, 2006

No. 43

Work We All Can Do

Bubba Garner

The Bible is about people. As God unfolds His great plan of redemption for man, He weaves in the stories of different men and women used to accomplish that very purpose. And while we may not be told everything we would like to know about them, we have enough information that we can not only learn from their lives, we can relate to them. Just think about how many chapters are devoted to the telling about Joseph, David, Hannah, and Peter. We know them. We see ourselves in them. We name our children after them. They are our heroes.

But the same book boasts of a supporting cast. They are the characters whose names do not appear in a great chapter on faith. They are the people whose stories are not as familiar, even among the children of God. They are the ones who quietly enter the stage, play their part, and then just as quietly exit back into obscurity. But they are people known to God and used by God, just as He used Abraham, Moses, and Mary. In His kingdom, everyone can be a hero.

There is work that we all can do. Some people seem to suffer from the misconception that since they can't do very much they might as well not do anything at all. They think to themselves, "I'll never teach like he can" or "I'm not as talented as she is." Yet God has never said He would hold us accountable for someone else's abilities and gifts. He expects us to work with what we've been given, to do what we can do, not what he can do.

The work is for all of us, every laborer in the vineyard. God still uses people to bring about His plans and purposes. He has a place for you. I offer these three questions to help us determine if we are

doing all that we can do.

How much do you give? That is, how much do you give of yourself? Everyone has something to put in. There's no gift too small, no act of service that goes unnoticed. What did Jesus recognize about the woman who broke the costly bottle of perfume and anointed His head? "She has done what she could" (Mark 14:8). And because of that, the Lord said, "wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will be spoken of in memory of her." When you give your all, you'll be amazed at what you get out of it.

Do you have room for the kingdom? We sing all the time that there is room in the kingdom for you, but do you have room for the kingdom in your life? We bend over backwards to make accommodations for everything else in our busy schedules, and the Lord usually ends up with the leftovers or is left out altogether. That's not right. Most Christians would tell you that their relationship to God is the most important thing in their life. But what would their calendar tell you? What would their checkbook tell you? What would their lives tell you? There is work that we all can do. Let's make certain to make room for it.

Is your family first? God is our Father. We are His children. That makes us brethren. That makes us family. But we are not family in name alone. There is a body of work that accompanies this body of believers, a responsibility to be born by all. And we need every part doing its part. Jesus teaches in Matt. 25:31-46 that when we serve our brethren, we serve our Brother Himself. And even the smallest deeds of kindness, things like feeding the hungry and visiting the sick, are of first importance to our Father.

Let's not wait too late to labor. There is work that we all can do right now. And when we spend ourselves in His service, we can rest assured that our names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

-via *Southside Sunday*, Pasadena, Texas.

Trust In The Lord

Jason Moore

Habakkuk complained to God about the ungodliness of His people. "How long, O Lord, will I call for help, and Thou wilt not hear?" (Habakkuk 1:2). God answered, "I am doing something...I am raising up the Chaldeans" (Habakkuk 1:5-6). The prophet objected, "Why art Thou silent when the wicked swallow up those more righteous than they?" (Habakkuk 1:13). He wanted the Lord to act, but punishing Israel with the armies of Babylon, a nation more wicked than they, seemed drastic. God answered, "The righteous will live by his faith" (Habakkuk 2:4).

The three chapter oracle of Habakkuk is an illustration of the behavior of real faith. It's no wonder that in the three key faith passages of the New Testament, the Holy Spirit points us back to God's answer to Habakkuk to illustrate the elements of faith (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38). While deeply troubled by God's strategy with Israel, Habakkuk learns and eloquently articulates the nature of real trust in the Lord in the psalm which closes his prophecy:

"Though the fig tree should not blossom, And there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail, And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold, And there be no cattle in the stalls, Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' feet, And makes me walk on my high places" (Habakkuk 3:17-19).

What is trusting the Lord? Is it believing God's word? Absolutely. But it's believing God's word when His word is unbelievable. When there's corn in the crib and beef in the stall; when the hens are all laying and the bacon is curing; when there's sweet milk for cornbread and flour for biscuits - and you say, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God" - that's not faith. It's when the

corn crib is empty and only mice in the stall; when the henhouse is henless and the smokehouse is void; when there's no skillet for cornbread and no oven for biscuits - and you still say, "Seek ye first the kingdom" - that's faith.

What is faith in God? Is it giving God thanks? Certainly. But it's counting our blessings when our diet is thistle, not manna. When the silos are full and that alfalfa is baled; when all the cows are calving and the hogs are grain fed; when it rains after sowing and is dry at the harvest - and you say, "God is good" - that's not faith. It's when the silos are empty and there's only Johnson Grass to bale; when the cows are calfless and the swine are lean; when there's drought in the spring and flood in the fall - and you still say, "God is so good" - that's faith.

What is believing the Lord? Is it going to worship? It is. But it's going when the going is a sacrifice and not a convenience. When the crops all are planted and the chickens are fed; when the potatoes are peeled and the corn is all shucked; when the hogs are all slopped and the cows are all milked - and you say, "Let's go to church" - that's not faith. It's when the fields are dust and the hens won't lay; when the potatoes won't vine and the corn won't tassel; when there's no slop for the sow and "ole Betsy" won't give - and you say, "Let's worship the Lord" - that's faith.

What is trust? Is it waiting on the Lord? Yes. But it's waiting on God when the answer is "No" or "Not yet" or no answer is forthcoming. When the peaches are plenteous and the apples are ample; when there's rain in the forecast and dew on the melons; when there's bushels of tomatoes to can and strawberries to jam - and you say, "He makes all things beautiful in His time" - that's not faith. It's when the peach trees won't blossom; when the skies are cloudless and the vines are fruitless; when there are no tomatoes for canning and no strawberries for jam - and you still say, "In His time" - then that's faith.

What is faith? Is it obeying God? Abso-

lutely. But it's obeying God when obedience is out of season. When you stand up for Jesus, and you stand in a troop; when you cite book, chapter and verse amidst a chorus of amens; when you take up your cross and brothers rush to your side - and you quote, "Obey God rather than men" - that's not faith. It's when you stand up for Jesus and no reinforcements arrive; when you say, "It is written," and men roll their eyes; when you bear your cross and no brothers arrive - and you say, "I must obey God rather than men" - that's faith.

What is trusting in the Lord? Habakkuk teaches us. The test of real trust is that it's still there when spring never comes, when the harvest fails, when the land is barren, when the stalls are empty, when the well is dry. When life is void of all comfortable reasons to believe and wait on God, and faith persists, then you know you have it. Trust is easy to talk about. But the righteous don't talk faith. They live it.

- via *North Jasper Seekers*; Jasper, Alabama

News & Notes...

THE SICK: *James Word* is in the St. Thomas hospital in Nashville and is doing well following his triple by-pass surgery on Thursday ... *Noah Lane Hammond* is now at home after spending several days in the hospital in Huntsville due to his diabetes... *Lou Ann Phillips* has been sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Virginia Lovell* has been sick and is not able to be at services... *Kevin Chancellor father, Derek Chancellor*, is scheduled to have surgery for his blockages on November 6th... *Charlotte Hall* began her treatments this past Monday and is doing well... *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 *Bethel church* in Bethel, Tennessee is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. Services will begin each evening at 7:00 p.m. *James Sheerer* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Shelbyville Mills church* in Shelbyville, Tennessee is having a gospel meeting this week through Friday. The services Monday through Friday will begin at 7:00 p.m. *Jimmy Mickels* will be the speaker in the meeting ... The *College Place church* in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday. *Wilson Adams* will be the speaker.

TUESDAY CLASSES: Starting this Tuesday, October 24th, 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.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Chancellors: Laurie, and Abbygail* are in Louisiana this week visiting with Laurie's parents... *Cori Williams* was in Auburn this past week... *The Crunks: Steven, Erica and Carson* have been in Gatlinburg this past week.

BAPTISM: We rejoiced last Sunday evening when *Mary Kate Cox*, who was visiting with us, came forward and expressed her desire to be bpatized into Christ. We rejoice with *Mary Kate* and her parents *Michael and Stephanie* in her desire to please the Lord. May she be blessed with many years to faithfully serve God.

THE RECORD: Attendance week of Oct. 15th

Sunday: Bible Classes 101
 Morning Worship 121
 Evening Worship 84
Wednesday: Bible Classes 77

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

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