

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, November 19th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Lev. 10:16-20)
..... Mark McCrary
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Michael Clemmons
Assisting Steve Parker
Serving James McConnell
..... Jim Phillips
..... Aric Butler
..... Rodney McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Joanthan Keenon

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Lev. 11:1-12)
..... Brad Hammond
Prayer
..... Kevin Chancellor
Lord's Supper
..... Michael Clemmons
..... Steve Parker
Closing Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Volume XIII

November 19, 2006

No. 47

Your Conscience: Dead or Alive?

Mark W. White

Hardly anyone speaks of the conscience anymore. As a society, our “conscience” hardly even “bothers” us any longer. We have become so accustomed to all kinds of wrong and all types of filthiness that we don’t even know how to blush. A Christian, however, is one who lives by a properly ordered, well trained conscience. In fact, violation of one’s conscience is sinful (Romans 14:23) even if there is no inherent wrong involved. Meat-eating was not sinful per se, but if a person had scruples against it, Paul said he should not eat meat (see also 1 Corinthians 8).

The lesson: Don’t violate your conscience. If careful study of God’s word and earnest prayer causes you to change your scruples and allows you to begin eating meat, then that is perfectly fine. But if your conscience cries out in anguish at the very slight of hamburger — then leave it alone. It would be sinful for you to go contrary to this inner sense of right and wrong.

Why is Scripture so insistent that the conscience not be violated? Paul, in fact, always worked “*to have a conscience without offense toward God and men*” (Acts 24:16). He paid attention to his conscience, made certain that he did not abuse it, and determined not to violate it. In order to secure a clean conscience, the blood of Jesus redeemed us (Hebrews 9:12-14). Baptism is an “*answer of a good conscience toward God*” (1 Peter 3:21). Concerning deacons, 1 Timothy 3:9 says they must “*hold the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.*” The conscience, therefore, is a vessel — a container in which is held the mystery of our faith.

This being so, we can understand the necessity of an unbroken,

intact and clean conscience. **Deliberate violations of conscience rupture the container in which our faith is held!** If we persist in violating our conscience, our faith will leak away like water from a cracked drinking glass. When you do what you know is wrong, you cannot have a pure conscience. Without an intact conscience sensitive to the will of God (cf. 1 Timothy 4:2) we are destroying the very thing that will keep us in the faith. 1 John 3:21-22 say *“If our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things pleasing in His sight.”*

~via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama.



On A Daily Basis

Bill Hall

A man, asked recently to describe memories of his college days twenty-five years ago, replied, “A few big moments; many goofs, but, overall, pleasant memories.”

Would these words not describe our memories of life generally? As we recall our years, there are always the “big” moments, the emotional “highs,” that we love to relish. Then there are the “goofs,” the embarrassing occasions that just keep coming back to haunt us. But, through it all, the pleasant memories sufficiently prevail to enable us to feel generally good about life.

But, in reality, success or failure in life is not determined by the “big moments” or “the goofs.” We will not be eternally saved on the basis of a few great spiritual achievements or eternally lost on the basis of a few gross mistakes (assuming

they have been repented of). Life consists of everyday actions and decisions, and it is these that bring ultimate success or failure, eternal happiness or eternal damnation. “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23).

It is one thing to express concern for our children as we talk of their future spirituality and faithfulness. It is quite another to provide on a daily basis a spiritual atmosphere in the home, a good example of godliness and faithfulness, consistent and loving discipline and a love for God and respect for fellowman that are so essential to the training of our children. It’s the little impressions that are made day by day that prove to be so decisive.

It is one thing to dream of some day being appointed an elder in the church. It is quite another thing to put forth the effort on a daily basis to learn the scriptures, to develop leadership ability, to grow spiritually, and to live as to gain the confidence of a discerning congregation. One does not qualify for the eldership in one big leap. It comes through daily development.

It is one thing to talk a “good line” on priorities. It is quite another thing to put God first on a daily basis. The devil knows so many ways to test our resolve in these realms. Our intentions are good, but, through his subtlety, he has us selling our souls for a mess of pottage or thirty pieces of silver.

It is one thing to think that we would die for the Lord if our faith were so tested. It is quite another thing truly to live for Him on a daily basis. Egos may be fed on the “big moments,” but true spirituality develops through daily prayer, study and meditation.

Our lesson is this. Set your goals for the future, and set them high. But recognize that it’s the little, day-by-day moments, the often forgotten moments, accumulated through the years,

that truly shape our destiny. Tomorrow's success depends upon the choices and decisions that are made today. Make them with care.

~via *The View*; Folsom, California



Detached Members

Frank Smith

Perhaps the most quickly recognized illustration of a member of our body being detached is the retina, that part of the eye that receives the image and sends it through the optic nerve. When it becomes detached, that eye is unable to see.

Paul declared that we are all members of the body, if we are children of God, Christians (1 Corinthians 12:18-20). And he further taught that all of the members must work for the well-being of the whole body (Ephesians 4:16).

But we cannot function if we become detached from the rest of the body. That part of the body that is cut off, or detached from the body, can be no benefit to the body. An arm severed from the body can do no work for the one who has lost that limb. But neither can the body continue to supply life to the part that is detached.

Even so, members of Christ can neither serve him nor can he be a blessing to them, if they become detached from Him. A close association with the Lord in the body is necessary for the grace of God to save and bless us. Those members who have detached themselves from the church or have so lived as to have the fellowship with God's people broken will die as surely as a severed limb. Jesus said, "As the

branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, so neither can you, except ye abide in me" (John 15:4). We cannot miss meeting and working with other saints in the church and bear fruit for the Lord. We must stay attached to His body in all things to keep our fellowship with Him, for He is the head of the body. Are you well attached?

Let us keep well involved in worship, in teaching others, in study, in ministering to others' needs to keep our lifelines connected securely. Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation.

~ via *The Beacon*; Charlottesville, Virginia

News and Notes

THE SICK: *C. L. Weathers'* doctors have decided to wait concerning surgery on his brain. He will have another CT scan in six months to determine if surgery is needed... *Trent Thornton* was sick and not able to be at services this past week, but is doing better now... *Virginia Lovell* has not been able to be at services due to sickness... *Jim and Brooke Phillips* were sick and unable to be at services last week. Brooke was better and able to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Scottie and Shelia Goode* were sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Marcia Cooper* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Charles Flood* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Steven Crunk's aunt, Joyce Stutts*, is having tests on her lungs and reports

seem good ... **Charlotte Hall** is scheduled to begin her next round of chemo-treatments next week...**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.

TUESDAY CLASSES: Remember the Tuesday night class at 7:30 p.m. In these studies we are looking at the *Kingdom of God* with emphasis on Premillennialism. **Bill Hall** is teaching the classes.

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 Butlers: Aric, Andrea and Arica** are in Kentucky this weekend...**James and Freda McConnell** have been on vacation.

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

THE RECORD: *Attendance week of Nov. 12th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 99
Morning Worship 128
Evening Worship 83

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 89



Remember our regular scheduled song service will be this evening at 6:00. Ronnie Phillips will be directing the service. I hope all of us will make our plans to attend as we teach and admonish one another in, hymns and spiritual songs.

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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