

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, December 24th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Lev. 14:10-20)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Lord's Supper
Presiding Scottie Goode
Assisting Aric Butler
Serving Brad Hammond
..... Zack Rogers
..... Mark McCrary
..... James McConnell
Closing Prayer
..... Larry White

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Lev. 14:21-32)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
..... Scottie Goode
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre

Volume XIII

December 24, 2006

No. 52

Decisions, Decisions

David Curry

Whenever we pass judgement on an issue which is under consideration, we have made a decision. Have you ever thought about how many decisions you and I make every day? I have, and it's mind boggling. For instance, you realize that the cupboard is bare and a trip to the grocery store is inevitable. Already you've made a decision, and this is only the beginning of a flood of decisions that will be made on this occasion. You must then decide what groceries you need, what clothes you will wear, what car to drive, what store to shop at, what route to take, where to park... and so on. All those decisions just about grocery shopping. If you'll notice, each decision was made with the previous one being taken into consideration.

This business of decision making is a pretty serious matter, regardless of the issue under consideration. Imagine now the serious nature of the decisions we make concerning our spirituality. If we do not make hasty judgements in regard to grocery shopping, shouldn't we do the same with regard to spiritual matters? I believe God's word answers this question in the affirmative.

Please consider the story of Lot recorded in Genesis 13:1-13. The scriptures tell us that because of the great amount of livestock that both Abram and Lot owned, "the land was not able to support them." This problem was causing strife between Abram's herdsmen and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Abram makes a "decision" in the matter and a very wise one at that. Abram suggests a separation in order to put an end to all the bickering. Only one decision remains, who will go where? Abram leaves the decision up to Lot. "If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the

right, then I will go to the left.”

After we conclude the reading, we see the evidence of a hasty decision. If only Lot had remembered Eve! One of the reasons she ate of the forbidden fruit was because it was pleasing to the eye. “And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere.” He made his decision based on looks alone, and what a tragedy! Within a period of time, we read in Genesis 19 that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were utterly destroyed because of their deliberate unrighteousness. Lot lost what he had, because of a hastily made decision.

Through this tragedy we learn the great lesson of how important it is to make the right decision. What is it that prompts us to make the decisions that we make from day to day? Unless our answer is God’s word, then it is time to stop and take stock of our situation. God’s word was given by inspiration, and is profitable. We see clearly the fact that God’s word should be the guide to all of our decisions. “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord” (Colossians 3:17).

We should be intent on studying the word of God, and learning from the decisions that others have made. Their decisions, whether good or bad, will make ours much easier. This was one of the reasons that these acts of the men and women of old are recorded for us. “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition.” (1 Corinthians 10:11).

Do we make the decision to attend services for fear of rebuke from the brethren, or to please mom and dad? Or do we do it in the light of God’s word, realizing that it is God’s will, and that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. May I suggest we do it not only because we have to, but because we want to. Fathers, “bring them (your children) up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

“Husbands, love your wives” (Ephesians 5:25). Do we do these things because we have to or because we want to? The decision is yours, just make the right one.

As we go about from day to day, let’s turn to God for help in making our decisions. Whether big or small, we’ll know for sure that we have made the right ones.

-via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas



Marked

Harold Hancock

We sometimes describe the influence a person has had on others or on a situation by saying, “he left his mark.” Perhaps, in this sense of the words, everyone leaves a mark, because everyone has some kind of influence. Someone expressed this thought by saying, “The slightest breeze that ever blew, some slender grass did wave.” Our influence can be good or bad, and it can be great or small. We should ask ourselves what kind of marks we are marking. Are we scribbling, or exhibiting exquisite penmanship? Does our “mark” enhance the lives of others, or does it threaten and deter their spiritual welfare? Christians cannot leave a “good mark” if they are not morally good (Galatians 5:19-20), do not refrain from corrupt speech (Ephesians 4:25), are not honest and truthful (1 Peter 2:12; Ephesians 4:25), do not attend services regularly (Hebrews 10:25). These are things the Bible demands and people expect of Christians.

Paul instructed Christians to “mark” certain ones. He told the Romans to mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine they learned (Romans 16:17), but he told the Philippians to mark those who walked

as he walked in Christ (Philippians 3:17). Here, to mark, means to look at, behold, watch, contemplate. We watch those who cause divisions and offenses to avoid making the mistakes they have and to prevent the spread of evil in the church. We watch those who follow Paul as he followed Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1) so that we may be encouraged and instructed in Christian living.

Be faithful to the Lord, and you will be marked as a good person, and have a good influence.

-via *Christianity Magazine*; Mar. Apr. 1996; Vol. 13 No. 3/4



Reading The Signs

Edwin L. Crozier

David's men could not believe his fortune. They had hidden from King Saul in a cave. They could only hope God would protect them.

But God did one better. Not only did He protect them, He delivered Saul into David's hands. Saul chose the very cave in which David was hiding to use the restroom. While there in all his vulnerability, David's men whispered: "Behold, this is the day of which the Lord said to you, 'Behold, I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you'" (1 Samuel 24:4).

But David did not kill Saul.

A short time later, David and Abishai snuck into Saul's camp in the wilderness of Ziph. It could only have been by the hand of God that they could walk unnoticed right up to the sleeping king. Abishai certainly believed it was the hand of God. He told David, "Today God has

delivered your enemy into your hand now therefore, please let me strike him with the spear to the ground with one stroke, and I will not strike him the second time" (1 Samuel 26:8).

Yet, once again, David let Saul live.

Could David not read the signs? Surely this was God's will. Everything worked out so perfectly to allow for this. Surely these two scenarios were telling David God's will for him. God obviously wanted David to kill Saul.

Why didn't David follow what must have been God's bidding as revealed in these circumstances? Because David realized circumstances and feelings do not reveal God's bidding.

Exodus 22:28 says, "You shall not curse God, nor curse a ruler of your people." If David was not even allowed to curse Saul, how would he ever be able to justify killing him? David understood our circumstances and our feelings do not equal God's calling or will. It is more and more commonplace for people to talk about how they know God's will because so many things just fell in to place. Regrettably, they sometimes are sure something that violates scripture is ok because it was so convenient that surely God wanted it this way.

However, we need to follow David's example. We know God's will by reading God's scripture. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says the scriptures are profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness. The scriptures equip us making us thoroughly furnished for every good work. We should not look to our circumstances to know God's will for us. We should not look to convenience or coincidence (no matter how much we want to label it providence) to determine God's will. Rather, we need to look to the scripture. When we do that, then we will always know how to behave no matter what the circumstance is and we will always know we are doing God's will.

-via *Franklin Church Bulletin*; Franklin, Tennessee.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Corey Word* is doing better now after being able to be out... *Sissy Clemmons* had surgery to remove her gallbladder on Thursday ... *Signa Skipworth* has been sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night *Erica and Carson Crunk* have been sick this past week have not been able to be at services ... *Larry & Dyanne Johnson* have been sick with the flu this past week ... *Theresa Gatlin* has been sick this past week ... *Kevin Chancellor's father, Derek Chancellor*, had surgery to correct the blockages in his neck on Monday. He is at home ... *Angie McCrary's father, Buford Shook*, is at home and is not doing well... *Monroe Pressnell* continues his treatments for his cancer... *Charlotte Hall* completed her treatments on Monday... *Myrtie Williams* is at home and not able to be out ... *Jack Tucker* is not able to be out ... *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.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Chancellors: Kevin, Laurie & Abbygail* on are back in town after being in Louisiana and Arkansas last week-end... *The Blakelys: Brian, Sarah, Hayden and Brooke* are in Ohio for the holidays with Sarah's family... *The Words: Brian, Lisa, Michael, Corey and Olivia* are in Florida spending the holidays with Lisa's family... Others will be traveling during the holidays. We pray for everyone's safety and their return.

THE RECORD: Attendance week of Dec. 17th

Sunday:

Bible Classes 101
 Morning Worship 116
 Evening Worship 80

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 93

Remember Our Service at 6:00p.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