

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, January 22nd

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Exo. 12:1-12)
..... Brad Hammond
Prayer
..... Monroe Pressnell

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Larry White
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jimmy Glass
Assisting Aric Butler
Serving Rodney McCrary
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... Jacob Rogers
..... Jim Phillips
Closing Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Exo. 12:13-20)
..... Ray Tucker
Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin
Lord's Supper
..... Jimmy Glass
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Word

Volume XIII

January 22, 2006

No. 4

What God Thinks

David A. Cox

The matter of man thinking is far more important that we often realize. The wise man said, "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). Again keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life (Proverbs 4:23). Paul reminded the Philippians to guard their thinking and to think only on good, positive and godly things (Philippians 4:8). We need to learn and understand the power that our thoughts can have upon our relationship with God. Let us notice a few examples in scripture.

The Case of Naaman. In 2 Kings 5, we read the story of the cleansing of Naaman of his leprosy. The prophet, Elisha, told Naaman to "go and wash in Jordan seven times" (2 Kings 5:10). Naaman did not want to do this and was even angry at what the prophet told him. As Naaman went away in a rage he said, "Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place and recover the leper" (2 Kings 5:11). Naaman was thinking, but his thinking was faulty. As long as he thought this way and refused to align his thinking with God's, he would remain a leper. Let us learn that we must subject our thinking to God's thinking.

The Case of the Rich Fool. Jesus told the parable about a farmer whose ground was greatly blessed, even to the point that he had no room to store the harvest. Notice the thinking of this man who had been so blessed. "And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many

years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry” (Luke 12:17-19). Here we see the thoughts of the blest man was only upon self and there was no thanksgiving to God. In the verses that follow, Jesus gives God’s reaction to such faulty thinking. “But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” (Luke 12:19-21). The Lord reprimands him for such thinking. We must not think that “things” will help us in any way to be pleasing to God. God is not concerned with what we have, but what kind of steward we have been with the things that we have been blessed with.

The Church at Laodicea. In Revelation 3, the angel of the church at Laodicea writes to the church and speaks of their condition of being lukewarm, neither cold or hot. However, this description did not match the thoughts of the members of the church at Laodicea. Revelation 3:17 tells what the Laodiceans thought of themselves, “Because thou sayest, I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” What a difference in what the Laodiceans thought and what the Lord thought. We must be sure that we are objective in our thinking and that our objectivity is based upon God’s will.

These are a few examples and many more could be given, but this is enough to understand that pleasing God is not based upon what I think pleasing God is, but upon what God thinks. We must remember that God’s thoughts are higher than man’s thoughts and His ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). We must then look to God’s word and determine what is right and pleasing to Him and then walk and think in those ways as we acknowledge God as the ruler of our lives.

Remember our service tonight at 6:00.

Better With Christ

Joe Fitch

“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain . . . yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hardpressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you” (Philippians 1:21). Paul faced death – as he had for much of his ministry for the Lord. It was nothing new. His life on earth was hard – often painful – sometimes filled with fear. On one occasion he recalled: *“I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling”* (1 Corinthians 2:3). Surely dying was not pleasant, but he was comforted – even attracted by the prospect of being *“with Christ.”* He proclaimed this prospect *“far better”* than any earthly prospect.

Paul was not unique in facing death – both frequently and very closely. The disciples warned Jesus *“Rabbi, lately the Jews have sought to stone you, are you going there again?”* Jesus would not be dissuaded, and Thomas bravely said: *“Let us also go, that we may die with him”* (John 11:7). Even then, they understood that being *with Christ* far overshadowed the dread of dying – no pessimism, no despair, just reality. Paul faced death, and declared he was *“..well pleased to be absent from the body and present with the Lord”* (2 Corinthians 5:8). Maybe he also learned from *“a voice from heaven saying . . . Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on . . . that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them”* (Revelation 14:13). All said and done, dying *with Christ* is better – far, far better.

But what if you do not die – at least not right away? Then what? Is *with Christ* only about dying? What about living? *“If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s”* (Romans 14:8). If there were no dying, no resurrection, no heaven or hell, living *with*

Christ would still be better. Living with Christ is the ideal life. It makes you a better person – makes it easier for you to live with yourself – makes you a blessing to others – and makes you God’s special inheritance (Ephesians 1:18).

Living *with Christ* is the essence of God’s plan. “*For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him*” (1 Thessalonians 5:9). From the onset of our service to the Lord – from our burial “*with Him through baptism into death*” – we have been called to live with Christ, to “*walk in newness of life*” (Romans 6:4). Beyond any doubt, when it comes to living, with Christ is better – far, far better.

We prepare to live devoutly and comfortably with Christ, but what if suffering appears in our forecast? First of all, there is more than one consideration about suffering – more than one basis for suffering. Peter warned, “*Let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters*” (1 Peter 4:15). Suffering for sin – for being any kind of “evildoer” – has no benefit. Justice is done; that is the only good thing to come out of such suffering. “*For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently?*” (1 Peter 2:20). There is no great benefit in how you behave while you suffer — if your suffering is for evil. You just get what you deserve. The thief on his cross knew his grievous suffering was only because of what he had done – we “*are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds*” (Luke 23:40). Neither should we find comfort in suffering for our rudeness, for meanness, for lying about people, for any of our sins. However, when we “*do good and suffer for it*” (1 Peter 2:20), it is an absolutely different situation. In such cases, we follow the example of Jesus (1 Peter 2:21) and “*take it patiently.*” Now, that is “*commendable before God*” (1 Peter 2:20). Do not miss the point! It is surely “betterto suffer for doing

good than for doing evil” (1 Peter 3:17) – to suffer as a Christian than as an evildoer (1 Peter 4:16). It may be that to us “*has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for his sake*” (Phil. 1:29) – to be “*reproached for the name of Christ*” (1 Peter 4:14). That is more than alright! “*...if indeed we suffer with him,...we may also be glorified together*” (Romans 8:17). Suffering with Christ is better – far, far better!

Did you notice the future prospect with Christ? It is “*glorified together*” (Romans 8:17). In obeying the gospel, we become “*sons of God*” (Romans 8:14; Hebrews 2:9-14) *together with Christ*. That means we are “*heirs of God and joint heirs*” *together with Christ* – which then means being “*glorified with him.*” If only faintly, we imagine what “*glorified with him*” implies, we will surely count as trivial any hardship encountered in being *with Him*. When all is wrapped up, when the final page is turned, “*with Christ*” is surely better – far, far better.

—via *The Lakeview Lamp*, Hendersonville, Tennessee.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Isabella Hammond* had tubes put in her ears this week...*Jimmie Lovell* fell this past Tuesday and spent a couple of days in the hospital, but is now at home ...*Rodney McCrary’s mother, Nadine McCrary*, is in the Huntsville Hospital in Huntsville...*Jerry Dickey’s father, David Dickey*, continues in the ECM hospital in Florence...*Tisha Thomas’ mother, Shelia Johnson*, was able to come home this week after her treatment...*Henry Trousdale* has not been doing well this past week and has not been able to be at services... *Mark, Suzette and Luke McIntyre* have all been sick this past week ...*Daniel, Marla and Lydia* have all

been sick this past week ... *John & Virginia Lovell* have been sick and not able to be out... *Scottie Goode* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Lisa & Corey Word* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Glenda Phillips* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Sissy Clemmons* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Larry Johnson* is sick at home and not able to be out... *Freda McConnell's sister, Leta Zadigan*, who has been dignosed with cancer... *My aunt, Martha Morris*, continues to undergo chemo treatments ...*Myrtie Williams* is at home unable to be out... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ... *Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette... *Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, continues at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the time for communication group four to meet. If you are in group four remember to meet with your group this evening.

PREACHING TONIGHT: Tonight at 6:00 p.m. *Jerry Dickey* will be speaking. I appreciate Jerry and his work and willingness to do this and I know that everyone will enjoy hearing him.

NEW QUARTER IN BIBLE CLASSES: The new quarter in Bible classes will begin next Sunday morning at 9:45. The schedule for teachers is on the bulletin board in the vestibule. I hope that everyone will be making their plans to be a part of one of the classes as we come together to study God's word.

THE RECORD: *For the week of January 15th*

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 88
- Morning Worship 110
- Evening Worship 88

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 63

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 (256) 247-1451
- Monroe Pressnell (256) 232-0780

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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