

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 29th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Exo. 12:31-39)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry White
Assisting Ronnie Phillips
Serving Corey Goode
..... Mark McCrary
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Jimmie Lovell
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Exo. 12:40-51)
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Steve Parker
Lord's Supper
..... Larry White
..... Ronnie Phillips
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Volume XIII

January 29, 2006

No. 5

Moderation In Doctrinal Stability

Bill Hall

People who are useful in the Lord's service are balanced in their thinking. They maintain moderation of the mind. They know what they believe and why they believe it, and are not given to radical fluctuations of thought.

A Study in Contrasts

Two men are teachers of God's word. Both are conscientious men who love truth. The first man, however, is easily swayed by whatever he reads and hears. He frequently changes positions on doctrinal issues. Wanting to be independent in his thinking, he is quick to reject traditional "Church of Christ" thinking. He adopts into his thinking anything that, on the surface, sounds reasonable to him. He loves to come across some new, exciting "gem" that will set his teaching apart from the old, stale teaching that people have heard for years. Above all, he wants his teaching to be thought provoking and challenging, different and exciting, new and fresh in its approach.

The second man wants his teaching to be challenging and thought provoking, too, but he recognizes that one does not have to reject that which is tried and proven in order to be challenging and independent. He is not surprised to find that his convictions are similar to those of others who have labored to separate error from truth, traditionalism from the pure word of God, sectarianism from the unity found in Christ. After all, he shares the same goals and studies the same book. He sees no virtue in being different from them. He has come to solid conclusions based on his study of the Scriptures and is not easily swayed from those conclusions. He

finds truth challenging because it is truth.

The first man tends to be “tossed” to and fro, and “carried about with every wind of doctrine” (Ephesians 4:14). His hearers never know what to expect from him next. One thing they can be sure of: whatever “kick” he is on at the time will come out in his lessons, for every new concept seems to become an obsession.

The second man has his heart “established with grace” (Hebrews 13:9); he is “grounded and settled” (Colossians 1:23). He questions positions he has held, and is forced by his own personal honesty and integrity to change positions occasionally, but he acts very slowly and cautiously in doing so. He keeps many questions that arise in his mind to himself, for he recognizes that they are not vital to his own salvation or to the salvation of others.

The first man unnecessarily disturbs others with his teaching, leaving them with more questions than answers. Some of his conclusions are dangerous. And though he later recognizes their danger and discards them, he has already, in his haste, planted seeds of error in the hearts of his hearers. His influence is hurt because brethren are afraid of him -- justifiably afraid. His usefulness in the kingdom is greatly affected.

Questions To Be Considered

We would suggest to our first man that before he creates trouble among God’s people and hurts his own influence, he might ask the following questions.

1. Am I sure of the conclusions I have reached? Is it possible that I have overlooked some pertinent scripture or argument that would negate my conclusions?

2. Am I sure that my conclusions have not been tainted by prejudice, disillusionment, bitterness, jealousy, emotional considerations, or some other factor that can adversely affect one's thinking?

3. Even if I am sure of my conclusions, is the

point I am stressing vital, of sufficient importance to justify problems?

4. Have I allowed these conclusions to become an obsession? Do I find myself talking about them frequently – in Bible classes? In sermons? In private discussions? Do I find my reading of the Scriptures somewhat “colored” by these new concepts?

5. Is it possible that in my teaching I am glorying in new and deep and fresh approaches rather than in the simple message of the gospel and the Christ who is the center of that message?

We are not encouraging compromise; nor are we suggesting that one must gain brotherhood approval for his conclusions before teaching them. We are saying, however, that caution dictates that one go slowly in adopting new concepts and be even more cautious in teaching them. “Let your moderation be known to all.”

-via *The Beacon*; Charlottesville, Virginia.



Window Box Weeders

Robert Harkrider

“It’s not that I’m afraid to work, lady; but there isn’t much doing in my particular line of work.”

“And what is your particular line?” the housewife asked of the beggar.

“I’m a window box weeder, Ma’am.”

Maybe that is why it is so hard to get volunteers to help with the work of the church. Unless a person has had special training along a certain line, he often has the mistaken notion that he is not qualified to do the work. How often do we hear the words “I can’t” when seeking volunteers for service in the vineyard of

the Lord. Many Christians excuse themselves from doing the Lord's work because they haven't been trained (and they make no further effort to become trained). "I can't preach." "I can't teach a class or a home Bible study." "I can't lead singing or lead in public prayer." "I can't visit the sick, the needy, the bereaved, or the wayward child of God."

Well, what can you do? Weed window boxes?

There is much to be done in the vineyard of the Lord for those who are willing. Being willing is much more important and necessary than being highly qualified. "The harvest indeed is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (Matthew 9:37). Christ did not choose professors from colleges to be His disciples. Rather, He called the humble people, the fishermen, and then trained them to do His work. Training brethren is no problem; finding brethren who are willing to "learn a new line of labor" is the big problem.

Jesus said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). If it were necessary that the Son of God must work while here on earth, surely we ought to conclude that we must work also. Our Lord said further: "I have meat to eat that you know not... My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to accomplish his work" (John 4:32, 34). Jesus did not do the work of the Father as one who is unwillingly driven to a task, but He did it as if it were the greatest joy of His life. The individual today who is truly converted to the Lord will find his greatest delight in doing the things the Lord wishes done. We will not have to be driven to attend worship; we will not have to be compelled to visit the sick and to care for the needy; but we will find our greatest joy and satisfaction in doing these things – if we are truly like Jesus.

How about learning to be the kind of worker Christ would have you to be? If we make the effort to learn, we will find that the task is far

easier than we probably thought. "We are laborers together with God" (1 Corinthians 3:9) and this fact assures success. Paul wrote, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). The individual who never tries is the only one who ever fails. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

The man who would seek heaven empty-handed is not really seeking heaven at all.

-via *The Susquehanna Sentinel*, Marietta, Pennsylvania.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Noah Lane Hammond* had an attack with his asthma this week... *Jimmie Lovell* was able to be back at Bible study Wednesday night after his fall last week... *Rodney McCrary's mother, Nadine McCrary*, continues in the Huntsville Hospital in Huntsville... *Angie McCrary's mother, Edna Shook*, was readmitted yesterday after possibly having another stroke... *Jerry Dickey's father, David Dickey*, was dismissed from the hospital this past week... *Henry Trousdale* has not been doing well this past week and has not been able to be at services... *Jack Tucker* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be at services, but is doing better now ... *Robyn Goode* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Corey Word* has continued to be sick and not able to be at services... *Andrea Butler* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, was able to come home this week after her treatment... *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.

SINGING: There will be a singing this afternoon at 3:00 at the *Westview church* in Athens.

NEW QUARTER IN BIBLE CLASSES: The new quarter in Bible classes is beginning this morning. I hope that everyone has made 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 22nd Sunday:*

Bible Classes 84
 Morning Worship 118
 Evening Worship 83

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 71

Gospel Meeting

March 26 – 31

Sewell Hall, Speaking

Schedule of Services

Sunday – 9:45 a.m. 10:45 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
 Monday through Wednesday – 7:30 p.m.

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
 Anderson, Alabama

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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