

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 8th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (Exo. 9:13-26)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Brad Hammond

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Rocky Rose
Assisting Andrew Gatlin
Serving Mark McCrary
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... James McConnell
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Exo.. 9:27-35)
..... Steve Parker
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
..... Rocky Rose
..... Andrew Gatlin
Closing Prayer
..... Larry White

Volume XIII

January 8, 2006

No. 2

“When You Read...”

Bill Robinson, Jr.

When I hear folks complain that the Bible is not relevant or that it is too difficult to understand, it makes me wonder: How often are they reading it? How much time do they spend studying it? What are they doing between their Bible reading and study times? God's word will never become relevant to these people if they do not regularly read, study and apply it to their own lives.

The apostle Paul writing to the church at Ephesus reminded them, “how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets” (Ephesians 3:3,4). In other words, what God concealed or kept hidden through the ages in Christ (a mystery) was disclosed and uncovered (revealed) through men (apostles and prophets) as the Holy Spirit directed them. Therefore, today when we read this revelation of God contained in the Bible, we can know and understand God's plan for our lives.

Jesus declares, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6). The difficulties some have in both reading and understanding the relevance of the Bible show what they are doing between their Bible study times. Jesus' language is clear, but one must hunger and thirst for righteousness before he can be filled. However, one who is trying to fill his soul with the things of this world cannot hunger and thirst for righteousness. We try to limit our children's intake of “junk food” between meals so they will be hungry enough to eat the more nutritious food. If all we ever ate was junk food there would be no

end to our physical health problems except an early death. Can we not apply this to our spiritual health? For example, if we never feed on God's word or, at best, do so infrequently, can we not expect some complications to our spiritual health-- e.g. negligence, non-interest, stress, guilt, weakness, etc.

Our spiritual values can only increase as we learn to read, study, and apply God's word to our lives. What we value we will commit our energy and time to achieve. Is that not what Jesus was teaching in Matthew 6:21: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"? We do no harm to the words or teaching of Jesus if we loosely translate the passage: "What a man values there you will find his interest and desires."

How do we value the word of God? For there is where we find its relevance to our lives. Let me close with the following passage. Applying the same attitude in reading the Bible as noted in this quotation, perhaps will stir our interest and desire ("hunger and thirst") for righteousness that we might be filled.

If we consider men and women generally, and apart from their professions and occupations, there is only one situation I can think of in which they almost pull themselves up by their bootstraps, making an effort to read better than they usually do. When they are in love and are reading a love letter, they read for all they are worth. They read every word three ways; they read between the lines and in the margins; they read the whole in terms of the parts, and each part in terms of the whole; they grow sensitive to context and ambiguity, to insinuation and implication; they perceive the color of words, the odor of phrases, and the weight of sentences. They may even take the punctuation into account. Then, if never before or after, they read. (Mortimer J. Adler, *How To Read A Book*, pg. 14, 1940 edition)

Let's strive to read the Bible for all its worth! "Give attention to reading..." (1 Timothy 4:16).
-via *Power Talk*, Louisville, Kentucky

Decision Making

Curtis Pope

In Joshua 24 we read the parting words of Joshua to the children of Israel. He had led them across the Jordan River, led them in battle, and they now possessed the promised land. In verse 15 he states, "Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

In this passage Joshua calls for some decision making. The interesting thing is that the children of Israel had already chosen to serve the Lord. Joshua is here making them realize that the decision to serve God is a decision to which they must constantly rededicate themselves and modify their behavior.

Whether we realize it or not, our lives are filled with choices. There are trivial and important decisions to be made every day. Obviously some decisions are more difficult to make than others; but whatever our choices, as those who have decided to be God's people, we must make all our decisions based on what God would have us to do. The Lord has given us a guide for our decision making. He sent Christ to this world to give us a perfect example of how to live, and He gave us guidance through His inspired word - the Bible.

As we face decisions that we have to make, we need to ask ourselves if we really serve the Lord or some other interests through our choices. Most Christians do not have trouble deciding whether to worship regularly or not, or whether to give of their means. Many Christians fail, however, in much more subtle decisions such as how to talk to someone who mistreats; whether or not to tell the truth when it means we might get in trouble; whether to neglect the study of God's word for constant worldly pursuits; or whether or not to spend time in activities designed to strengthen the congregation.

Christianity is constant decision making. If

we decide to serve God, our decisions must give evidence of that choice. When we decide matters without God in mind, we choose whom we will serve, and that decision shows that we do not serve God.

-via *Lakeview Lamp*, Hendersonville, Tennessee.



Invincible Faith

Gary Henry

“For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth” (Job 19:25).

Faith in Jesus Christ, if it is genuine, is one of the strongest forces known to the human race. In fact, it’s possible to possess a faith that is, for all practical purposes, invincible.

Invincible faith, however, is not merely the intellectual acceptance of the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. No, the power to withstand great hardship comes from believing that, as the Son of God, Jesus Christ is one day going to gain complete victory over every form of evil and injustice. The person who truly believes that will not be defeated by anything that happens in the meantime.

Toward the end of Revelation, we have this description of one of John’s visions: “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called the Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should

strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords” (Revelation 19:11-16).

Invincible faith comes not from finding a way to be unconquerable ourselves, but from disciplining our minds to believe in the unconquerability of our King. It is impossible that He will be defeated, and this truth is well attested by everything that has ever been known about Him. When, in the face of temporary opposition, we choose to believe that the ultimate victory will be His, then we adopt a faith that the devil can do little to vanquish. And it is to us that Jesus Christ says, “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne” (Revelation 3:21).

“Perseverance is our supreme effort of refusing to believe that our hero is going to be conquered” (Oswald Chambers).

-via *Charlottesville Beacon*; Charlottesville, Tennessee.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Isabella Hammond* is in the ECM hospital in Florence, room 102...*Rodney McCrary’s mother, Nadine McCrary*, is in the Huntsville Hospital and is scheduled for by-pass surgery on Monday ...*Jerry Dickey’s father, David Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence... *Myrtie Williams* is at home and is recovering from her recent surgery... *Angie McCrary’s mother, Edna Shook*, has moved to the J. W. Summers Rehabilitation Center in Muscle Shoals ... *Melissa Parker* was sick on

Wednesday and not able to be out ... **Jimmie Lovell** has been sick this past week and unable to be at services... **John Lovell** has been sick and not able to be out... **Wanda Tucker** has been sick and not able to be out... **Ray Tucker** was sick on Wednesday and not able to be out, but is now better... **Larry Johnson** is sick at home and not able to be out... **Freda McConnell's sister, Leta Zadigan**, has been diagnosed with cancer... **My aunt, Martha Morris**, is continues to undergo chemo treatments ... **Mattie Blanche Word's son, Billy Word** as he is recovering from a fall... **Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home ... **Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette. Her condition has declined... **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 two to meet. If you are in group two remember to meet with your group this evening.

NEW DIRECTORIES: The new directories are still on the table in the vestibule. If you have not done so be sure to get a copy today.

THE RECORD: *For the week of January 1st*

Sunday: Bible Classes 88
 Morning Worship 128
 Evening Worship 74

Wednesday: Bible Classes 76

Gospel Meeting

March 26 – 31

Sewell Hall, Speaking

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

Evangelist & Editor

David A. Cox (256) 247-1049
 Office—(256) 247-5539
 E-mail address: dacox@hiwaay.net

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 P.O. Box 66
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