

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, February 19th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Exo. 15:20-27)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Scottie Goode
Assisting Steve Parker
Serving Jim Phillips
..... James McConnell
..... Zack Rogers
..... Rodney McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Exo.. 16:1-8)
..... Eddie L. Hammond
Prayer
..... Brad Hammond
Lord's Supper
..... Scottie Goode
..... Steve Parker
Closing Prayer
..... Larry White

Volume XIII

February 19, 2006

No. 8

Calm Enough To Consider

Gary Henry

"He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit" (Proverbs 17:27).

It is dangerous to let our minds become so agitated that we can't consider our actions carefully. Our adversary, the devil, specializes in confusion. He loves to prey upon minds that are torn and upset by multiple worries, and he often has his greatest success in tempting us when we're so beset by cares that we act on impulse, failing to consider the consequences of our actions.

Solomon observed that "a man of understanding is of a calm spirit." But how can we have a "calm spirit" when many stressful things come at us at once, all of which have to be considered? There surely can be no question that this is one of life's most difficult challenges, and there are no easy answers. Like most difficult things, however, cultivating a calm mind is a matter of training.

Our brains may have a more complicated connection to our spirits than the other parts of the body, but the brain (i.e., the physiological mind) is still a part of the body, and as such, it has to be trained to serve, rather than hinder, the spirit. Naturally unruly and seemingly with a will of its own, the mind has to be put in its place, disciplined, and taught to help us get to heaven.

Training our minds to be calm is like every other kind of training in that it has to be done in small steps. It's a matter of incremental growth over time. What we do is put ourselves on a deliberate regimen of training, and we "exercise" each and every day. We find some little thing we can do today to help calm our minds, and that victory encourages us to do the same tomorrow.

At the very least, we need to consciously value a calm spirit. We need to pursue it, and when we find ourselves without it, we need to be wise enough to see the danger we're in and make godly efforts to recover our calmness as soon as possible. If we can't always be calm, we can certainly grow in that direction. Today, like every day, there is some step you can take that will lead to a mind that's more peaceful -- and more careful. What is that step?

"A calm mind is a great asset in this life. Without it, your devotional life will not bear much fruit. If your heart is troubled, you are vulnerable to the enemy of the soul. When you are agitated, you are not able to make good decisions. You will stumble into snares" (Lawrence Scupoli).

-via *The Beacon*; Charlottesville, Virginia.



"I Just Can't Beat It!"

Aaron Beard

You know that you have said it before. Maybe you said it about a cold that was persistent on keeping you feeling bad day after day. It could have been that you said it about a tickle in the back of your throat that refused to go away. It just seemed as if there was no way you were going to beat it. Sometimes this is the way Christians feel in our spiritual battles against the devil and sin. Often the problem is that that we decide that we want to quit sinning, however, we do not replace the spot that sin once filled with righteous activity.

When one comes to Christ, he crucifies his former self, with the desires for the ways of sin. Galatians 5:27 says, "And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and

desires." Within the physical realm crucifixion was a horrible means of execution. Unless stopped prematurely, the cross always succeeded in killing its victim. It served its purpose very well. When we come to the Lord, putting to death our old ways of sin, it should be just as thorough. There is a void, or a vacuum, that is created when this happens. The place that sin used to hold in one's heart and life is now void and must be filled. This is why so much emphasis is placed on putting on the "new man." Calling them to recall their conversion, Ephesians 4:22-24 says, "That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness." Paul, speaking of his change, said, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Paul did away with the life he used to lead and filled it with Jesus Christ.

Jesus, in Matthew 12, made a very interesting comparison between the state of men of that day and a haunted house. Jesus said, "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation" (Matthew 12:43-45). The point Jesus was trying to get across here was not about haunted houses, but rather the state of the hearts of men. Whether or not it was the specific aim of this story, an application can be made to when one turns away from sin. The house was swept, empty, and put in order illustrating that the

place that the evil spirit once possessed was still empty. The man had not filled it with something good. So it is with sin.

When we empty ourselves of sin in our lives a void is created. Where sin once held a place, now there is an empty spot. Someone whose pursuit has been unrighteousness must find something else to pursue or the unrighteousness will return. Someone whose thoughts have been continually upon evil must think on purer things or, given a little time, the unrighteous thoughts will return. Paul wrote, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2). Someone has compared this "renewing of your mind" to filling up a dirty bucket with clean water. As you begin to fill up the bucket the dirt keeps flowing out as the clean water is being poured in and eventually you will have a clean bucket full of clean water.

Paul says that if we fill the void that is created by the crucifixion of the old man with righteous things, then the old man of sin will not come back. He writes, "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish..." (Galatians 5:16-17). There is a battle that takes place between one's desire to do right and the temptation to do wrong; however, if we pursue the spirit we will be less likely to fall to the flesh. Paul says that the things we must fill our lives with are "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22).

If we make certain that we busy ourselves doing things that are good, wholesome, and spiritual, we will find that the struggles we have with particular sins will be lessened. If you have a problem with lust and you see that the thoughts begin to enter, think on pure and holy things.

The person who has a problem with stealing should busy himself working to be able to give to others. Ephesians 4:28 says, "Let him who stole no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need." If you have a problem with jealousy, busy yourself trying to do for other people. If you have a problem with words you say, go the extra mile to say things that are upright. Ephesians 4:25 says, "Therefore, putting away lying, Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor." Paul goes on to say, "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (vs. 31). It is not enough to just say, "I will stop sinning," we must put Christ in its place!

-via *Gospel Nourisher* Trussville, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Yvonne Pressnell* has been sick this past week and was not able to be at services Wednesday night... *Andrea Butler* has been sick this past week and spent one day in the hospital, but is doing better ... *Virginia Lovell* has been sick this past week and not able to be at services... *Melissa Parker* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Rodney McCrary's mother, Nadine McCrary*, has moved to Scott Nursing Home and Rehabilitation in Lawrenceburg... *Larry Johnson* is sick at home and not able to be out... Remember *Freda McConnell's sister, Leta Zadigan*, who has been diagnosed 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 is the night for Communication Group three to meet. If you are in group three, remember to meet with your group this evening.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Words: Brian, Lisa, Michael, Corey and Olivia* are in Florida this weekend... *The Dickey's: Jerry and Charlotte* are away this weekend and *Justin and Brandon* are with Jerry's brother... *The Butlers: Aric and Andrea* are visiting family today... *Glenda Phillips* is also visiting with family... *The Coxes: Kerry, Tyler Hunter and I* are in Red Bay where I am beginning a gospel meeting today.

PREACHING TODAY: In my absence today, *Steve Parker* will be preaching this morning I know that you will enjoy hearing him speak. I appreciate Steve's willingness to fill in for me while I am away.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Westview church* in Athens is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Jeff May* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Eastside church* in Red Bay is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. *I* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Parkway church* in Lawrence county is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Steve Klein* will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: *For the week of February 19th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 92
 Morning Worship 108
 Evening Worship 78

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 79

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: daco@hiwaay.net

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