

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 26th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Exo. 16:22-35)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry White
Assisting Andrew Gatlin
Serving Mark McCrary
..... Corey Goode
..... Jimmie Lovell
..... Curtis Mosley
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (Exo.. 17:1-7)
..... Rocky Rose
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper
..... Larry White
..... Andrew Gatlin
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Volume XIII

February 26, 2006

No. 9

Treating Temptation

Bubba Garner

Two of the gospel writers record the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13). They not only demonstrate the Son of God's superiority over Satan, but reveal the tactics and ploys of our enemy. The temptation accounts solidify Jesus as our great High Priest who can sympathize with our situation and help us to overcome our own battles with the devil. While the Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years, failing and falling, Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness, giving us a pattern to follow when we encounter temptation.

What can we learn from His encounter with the tempter?

Temptation is inevitable. If the devil can find Jesus in the wilderness, what makes you think he doesn't know where you are? And if He is not afraid to slither up to the Son of God, what's going to keep him away from your house, or your office, of your classroom, or your car, or your mind? Paul said that temptation is "common to man" (1 Corinthians 10:13). You will search in vain for some loophole or clause in your contract that makes you the exception.

Since we are assured that temptation is not a probability but a certainty, perhaps we ought to make better preparations for its arrival. That means you look for it even when things are going well, even during the times you feel strong. Right before Jesus was led into the wilderness, He was baptized in the Jordan River, He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, He heard the voice of His Father from heaven. This is the last place you would expect the devil to show up. That's just what he wants you to think.

Temptation is inevitable; giving in is optional. Jesus was God in the flesh. But there is no evidence that He used any supernatural powers during this confrontation with the devil. Remember, His response to the temptation to turn the stones to bread was, “man shall not live by bread alone” (Matthew 4:4). Otherwise, if He miraculously escaped, He could not “be tempted in all things as we are” (Hebrews 4:15) or “be made like His brethren in all things” (Hebrews 2:17)?

In reality, Jesus used what every Christian has at his disposal—the word of God. Three times Satan challenged Him. Three times Jesus responded, “It is written.” He never said, “well, I’m only human” or “I’ll try harder next time.” He was only interested in what God said. And He didn’t wait until the heat of the battle to do His research. If you want the word of God on your lips, you have to put it in your head and on your heart.

When temptation comes along, we don’t have to face it alone. “For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted” (Hebrews 2:18). Jesus claimed the ultimate victory over Satan because He won every battle along the way. That makes His uniquely qualified to answer our cries for help and deliver us from the hand of the tempter.

Yet, we seem so willing to exhaust all other resources before we take it to the Lord in prayer. Even the help we receive from one another ought to be supplemental to the aid from Him who knows exactly what we’re feeling but never gave in to that feeling. And Jesus wants you to know what it feels like to win. “He is able. With Him, so are we” (Gary Holloway).

Two examples of behavior in the wilderness are given to us—the children of Israel and the Son of God. Which one will shape your life? I’m tempted to follow Jesus.

—via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas

Discipleship: Blessings and Sacrifice

Allen Dvorak

What a tremendous blessing it is to be a part of the kingdom of God! That was the observation of one who ate with Jesus and heard His teaching. Certainly he spoke the truth about being a disciple, but Jesus then added some other important considerations about discipleship.

The occasion was a supper in the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to which Jesus had been invited (Luke 14:1ff). As Jesus watched the other guests selecting places around the table, He told a parable which mildly rebuked their preoccupation with honor and status. Greater honor was associated with certain places at the table, generally the ones closest to the host of the supper. In His parable, Jesus suggested that guests should purposefully not choose the best seats lest they lose their seats to another guest whom the host esteemed more.

The atmosphere at the supper may have been a little tense after the parable. Actually, Jesus had already healed a man as He was arriving at this Sabbath supper, an act that had surely scandalized some of the lawyers and Pharisees present. As if things were not already uncomfortable enough, Jesus told this parable and then advised his host to invite the poor, maimed, lame and blind to future suppers because they could not repay him with reciprocal invitations, but he would instead be blessed by God (Luke 14:12-14)!

As if inspired by this thought or perhaps simply to break the icy quiet which may have fallen upon the supper, someone exclaimed that it would be a blessing for all who “ate bread” in the kingdom of heaven. To eat bread in the kingdom is probably a figurative way of referring to the spiritual blessings which are now available in Christ Jesus.

Jesus responded to this remark with another parable, but the purpose of this second story was not to emphasize the blessings which adhere to a relationship with God. Jesus chose instead to make the point that not all who were invited to enjoy these blessings appreciated their value. In His parable, Jesus told of those who were invited to a great supper. When, however, the supper was ready, the prospective guests sent notice that they would not be attending the meal, giving excuses that were patently ridiculous and that demonstrated the low esteem they placed upon the invitation!

Maybe as He left this supper later or perhaps even on another occasion altogether, Jesus made further observations about discipleship (Luke 14:25). Even among those who can appreciate the value of the spiritual blessings in Christ (i.e., those who want to attend this spiritual supper), not all are willing to make the sacrifices necessary to be a disciple. Some will not put God ahead of their families (vs. 26) or even ahead of their own desires (vs. 27). Jesus affirmed that such people cannot be His disciples. Discipleship is an all or none proposition; there are no “kind of” disciples. But what tremendous blessings!

-via *News & Notes*; Madison, Alabama.



“Come and See”

Jason Cicero

Christ has given us the great responsibility to teach others about Him (Matthew 28:18-20). It may be that we fail to teach others because we do not know what to say or where to begin. Consider this. When Jesus began His public ministry He called Philip to “*follow Me*” (John 1:43). Philip then found Nathanael and ex-

plained that they had “*found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote - Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph*” (John 1:45). Nathanael was less than impressed. Nathanael believed that folks from Nazareth were from the wrong side of the tracks so he dismissed Philip’s idea that this Nazarene was the Messiah altogether (John 1:46). Philip simply said, “*Come and see*” (John 1:46).

Most folks we will try to teach will be similar to Nathanael. They will be unimpressed. Unimpressed that we have Lord’s Day Bible classes, that we preach from the Bible, that we come together on Wednesday evening to read and study God’s word. Why not simply say to them, “*Come and see*”? This seems to be an effective way to bring others to Jesus. For Nathanael did come and Nathanael did see (John 1:47-49). In fact, this same method is used by Jesus and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 11:27; Revelation 22:17).

As the Lord’s Day approaches, let us be about the business of inviting others to “*come*.” To “*come and see*.” To “*come*” and hear the good news about Jesus; the good news about His death, burial and resurrection; the good news about the forgiveness of sins; the good news about a heavenly home. Let us say to those who need Jesus, “*Come*.”

-via *The Perry Hill Road Bulletin*, Montgomery, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *James Word* had out patient surgery on Thursday on his shoulder and is at home...*Michael Clemmons* has been sick this past week ...*Virginia Lovell* has been sick this past week and not able to be at services...*Sadie McIntyre* has been sick with the flu and has not been able to be at services... *Rodney McCrary’s mother, Nadine McCrary*, has been taken back to the Athens-Limestone Hospital due to fluid build up... *Larry Johnson* is at home and not

able to be out... Remember *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 is the night for Communication Group four to meet. If you are in group four, remember to meet with your group this evening.

RED BAY MEETING: It was a great priviledge for me to have been a part of the meeting at the *Eastside church* in Red Bay this past week. The meeting went very well and the brethren were very kind and gracious. The church seems to be doing well. *Danny Fuller* is the preacher there and it was good to be with him and his family. I appreciate *Steve Parker* for preaching for me while I was away.

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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U.S. Postage
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 Anderson, Alabama
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Gospel Meeting

March 26 – 31

Sewell Hall, Speaking

Schedule of Services

Sunday – 9:45 a.m. 10:45 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.
 Monday through Friday – 7:00 p.m.

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
 Anderson, Alabama

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