

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, March 12th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Exo. 19:14-24)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
Presiding Mark McIntyre
Assisting Jerry Dickey
Serving Zack Rogers
..... Curtis Mosley
..... James McConnell
..... Corey Goode
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Exo.. 20:1-7)
..... Larry White
Prayer
..... Aric Butler
Lord's Supper
..... Mark McIntyre
..... Jerry Dickey
Closing Prayer
..... Steve Parker

Volume XIII

March 12, 2006

No. 11

Seek Those Things Which Are Above

Daniel W. Bailey

In Colossians 2:11-15, Paul writes to the faithful Christians in Colosse, explaining the symbolic significance of baptism into Christ. The apostle details that immersion in the waters of baptism symbolizes a death and burial in the form of Christ's death and burial. Whereas Christ died physically and was raised to live again by the power of God, the believer in Christ, when baptized according to the gospel message, dies to sin and is raised up again to walk a new spiritual life in the likeness of Jesus Christ. Upon these statements, Paul goes on in Colossians 3 to teach how this spiritual resurrection should affect the way that Christians live before God in this earthly life: *"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."*

Paul here speaks to people who had been raised with Christ – they died to sin and were raised to walk in newness of life through faith when they were baptized. And based upon that fact, the apostle teaches these Christians, as all children of God should learn and understand today, that a new creature in Jesus Christ must not live a life absorbed and controlled by the concerns and desires of the world, but should live with an unwavering consciousness of the eternal will of God, giving utmost devotion and highest loyalty to the rule of heaven.

"Seek those things which are above, where Christ is" – in other words, be motivated to strive for and attain the things that really matter: the things that are above, in heaven with Christ and God. As children of the world strive and struggle to gain worldly

things, children of the Most High must focus their efforts on heavenly things. The concerns of God and His righteousness must take priority over the concerns of this life (Matthew 6:33). Christians must make heaven, that eternal resting place of the faithful, our principle goal and aim, and we must strive with all diligence and devotion to attain it. Note how Paul expressed his paramount aim in this life: “forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13f).

“*Set your mind on things above, not on things of the earth*” – *set your mind* is somewhat too weak a translation, for the concept involves more than just the logos, but also love, desire, value, moral reflection, and intense concern (see Strong or Vine on the Greek, *phroneite*). For this reason, the King James Version translates the phrase, “Set your affection on things above,” and the NASV footnotes, “Be intent on things above.” The command involves not only what we think about, but how we think. The new creature in Jesus Christ does not stumble through life with heaven directly occupying every waking thought, but rather contemplates every thought, action, emotion, and situation in the context of heaven, always considering the present in the light of eternity and God’s will. This means that before making the decision to take a job or begin an educational program or join a club/society, faithful Christians first think about how that decision might affect their service in God’s kingdom, then the possible benefits gained in this life. When we surf the internet, or choose a book to read or a movie to watch or a radio station to listen to, we as God’s children reflect upon whether or not the consequent meditations will be edifying to our souls and beneficial in our race for the prize of heaven – Christ is there, our loving Father is there: we should long with mind, body and soul to be with them, and therefore live and think in ways that will help us secure that goal.

Oftentimes walking in the light of Christ demands that we abstain from carnal things that the impure world regards as fun. Sometimes devotion to the rule of the Lord demands that we refuse to operate by the dishonest and selfish standards of the world that lead only to temporary success and satisfaction. Colossians 3:1-3 reminds all Christians that we no longer live according to the priorities and dictates of the flesh, because we died to those carnal things when we put on Christ. Therefore, God’s children must live every moment of every day striving above all else to please God, living in accordance with His standards of righteousness and wisdom. Let us firmly focus our minds on heaven, and always make decisions in this life while considering the life that is to come.

-via *Meditate On These Things*; Woodlawn, New York



Deceit

Ed Harrell

Upon his return from the Scopes trial in 1925, H. L. Mencken told a story of one of the leading citizens of Dayton who was a staunch prohibitionist but also spent much of his time halfstewed.

This citizen went home one evening after drinking a bit too much and told his wife he was sick and that she would have to do the evening praying alone. He went to bed but he could hear his wife on her knees in the next room. She began: “Oh, Lord, throw the mantle of Thy mercy around my drunken husband.” He bolted up in bed and shouted to his wife, “Gracious, woman, don’t tell Him I’m drunk; say I’m sick.”

No one believes such nonsense. But millions act like they do.

The recent public spectacle of a famous television preacher trapped by immorality is not new, nor is the use of deceit to try to escape the consequences of sin. It is difficult for the mighty to humble themselves and say, "I have sinned."

But it is not only difficult for the mighty; it is onerous for all of us. Fortunate is the man who has never been entangled in the treacherous descent from immorality, to lying, to a life of deceit, fleeing the public price of sin.

One pays a terrible cost for hypocrisy. We sacrifice the cleansing grace of a penitent heart, brought low by the chastisement of conscience (2 Corinthians 7:10). We lose our ability to identify with others, to comfort and instruct those who carry such burdens in their own lives (Galatians 6:1-5). And, above all, we forfeit our honor and self-respect (2 Peter 1:9). Somewhere, deep in my heart, I know that I lie to myself as well as to others.

So it is that one sin unacknowledged leads me deeper and deeper into the throes of deceit. Without self-respect, without the answer of a good conscience, the will to do right has perished.

Public wrong can rarely be hidden successfully; its public acknowledgement is the road to God's forgiveness and our own reformation. But even more dangerous is the private deceit which threatens the integrity of my conscience.

There is much about me that you do not know, and you will never know. But I know, and God knows. It is between me and Him that deceit becomes most deceitful. I have never believed that public recitals of private sins served either God or man. But the soul-searching, closet prayer of a penitent heart is the biblical road to forgiveness and personal reconstruction.

The most curious facet of the story of the Tennessee drunk is the image of God that it presents. Can we hide from God? Such thinking, callously pursued, denigrates God; it ob-

scures His eternal presence and majesty; it contributes to the frivolous modern concept of powerless divinity.

I confess that I guard my behavior for many different reasons. I value my family and loved ones; I am humbled by the esteem of others; I would not want to risk my job and the stability of my life. But, for all of that, I know that I can, if I will, run and hide. It may be risky, but I can sin and deceive.

The gyroscope of my life must be a God-consciousness. I live in His presence. He is with me everywhere I go-for good or evil. He watches, along with heavenly hosts, the adulterer and the liar. Will you do such dark and repulsive things in His presence? It is chilling to think such thoughts.

Of course, I do sin in His presence. And when I do, as I should, I fall remorsefully on my face and pray that He will do what I cannot do - remember it no more. It is a grand and awesome truth that I cannot forget my sins; they are painfully etched on my conscience for a lifetime. But He who knows all, has chosen to know no more.

The majestic truth can be thus stated: if you deceive yourself and pretend that He does not know - He knows. If you humble yourself and pray forgiveness for what He knows - He no longer knows.

-via *The Beacon*; Charlottesville, Virginia

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Virginia Lovell* has continued to be sick and not able to be at services...**Jerry Dickey's mother, Pat Dickey**, is in the ECM hospital in Florence awaiting an arteriogram...**Ronnie Phillips** had a miligram done on Thursday and will hear from it this week when he goes to the doctor... **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 two to meet. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group this evening.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Angie McCrary and all the family*, in the passing of Angie's aunt, *Lois Shook*, this past Wednesday.

OUT OF TOWN: *Cori Williams* is away in Auburn this weekend.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Old Moulton Road church* in Decatur is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. It is my privilege to be the speaker in this meeting... The *River Bend church* in western Lauderdale county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services nightly at 7:00 p.m. They will have different speakers as follows: *Sunday – Johnny Richardson; Monday evening – Mike Douglas; Tuesday evening – Mark White – Wednesday evening – Phillip Owens.; Thursday evening – Jeff McCrary; Friday evening – Shawn Bain....* The *Centerview church* in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with *Gerald Ricketts* speaking. Services will begin at 7:00 p.m.

THE RECORD: *For the week of March 5th*

Sunday: Bible Classes 96
 Morning Worship 116
 Evening Worship 81
Wednesday: Bible Classes 95

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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