

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 19th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Bible Reading (Exo. 20:18-26)

..... Ray Tucker

Prayer

..... Brian Word

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Lord's Supper

Presiding Jimmy Glass

Assisting Phil Pressnell

Serving Rodney McCrary

..... Larry White

..... Aric Butler

..... Ethan Pressnell

Closing Prayer

..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Bible Reading (Exo.. 21:1-11)

..... Steve Parker

Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Lord's Supper

..... Jimmy Glass

..... Phil Pressnell

Closing Prayer

..... Steve Parker

Volume XIII

March 19, 2006

No. 12

You Are Invited To Attend Our

Gospel Meeting

March 26-31

(Sunday – Friday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday: 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday: 7:00 p.m.

Sewell Hall, Speaker

of Fairlawn, New Jersey

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

Following The Bible

Sewell Hall

Our claim to a unique position in the religious world is our determination to follow the Bible. But when this claim is made, the usual response is “All churches follow the Bible.” This raises an obvious question: “If all churches follow the Bible, why the variety of doctrines and practices?”

Unacceptable Explanations

Some say the Bible cannot be understood sufficiently well to allow for unity. This questions God’s wisdom, for God intended for us to understand. “Be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 3:17). Was God incapable of providing a book that men could understand?

Others insist that the Bible actually teaches many different things. Denominationalists have been claiming this for years. More recently, we even heard a preacher among churches of Christ say that the Bible can be used to justify different kinds of church government. Sometimes it is said, “You can prove anything by the Bible.” This questions God’s integrity. It is insulting to say of a man: “You can prove anything by him.” How much worse to say this of a book given to us by God! It contains one consistent message and to make it support contradictory positions requires an abuse of its message.

The Real Problem

The problem is not with the Bible, nor with its source. The problem is the varying approaches to following the Bible. Some believe in a careful adherence to what the Bible says. Others believe in a rather casual following “not of the letter, but of the Spirit,” as they put it, adopting the words but not the sense of 2 Corinthians 3:6. Stated another way, some construe the Scriptures strictly, believing that we must do in religion only what the Scriptures authorize. Others construe the

Scriptures loosely, believing that we may practice anything not plainly forbidden.

These two views formed a clear issue between the two great reformers of Germany and Switzerland, Luther and Zwingli. In *A History of the Christian Church*, Lars Qualben explains: “One of the great differences between Zwingli and Luther was: Luther used the Bible as corrective, retaining those rites and ceremonies of the Medieval church which were not positively anti-scriptural. Hence he retained images, altars, ornaments of the churches, organs, church bells, and the like. Zwingli used the Bible as a code of laws, rejecting everything not expressly enjoined in the Scriptures” (p. 255).

Following Recipes and Directions

If a teacher gives a student a recipe for making a cake, what does she expect? If the girl adds ingredients not found in the recipe, will the teacher credit her with following the recipe? Obviously, the student was following the recipe as long as she was using what the recipe required. But when she added other ingredients, she ceased following the recipe and began following her own way.

If a person is given directions for finding a location, what is involved in following those directions? As long as he is making the turns authorized, he is following directions. But when he begins making turns not called for, he has ceased following directions.

Are people actually following the Bible as they follow recipes or directions? The majority of ingredients in modern religion are nowhere authorized in Scripture. They are the products of human wisdom. And it is these additional ingredients, these unauthorized changes of directions that account for the differences that exist in religion.

—via *Graphic Evangelist*; Athens, Alabama.

Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00.

Serpents and Doves

David Smitherman

“Behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16).

Serpents and doves—two creatures that have little in common. And yet, in the development of our character, we are to be “as” they are in some respects. Quite a paradox, isn’t it? Well, much of the Christian’s character is a paradox. For instance...

We are to control our tongues (James 3:1-f) but also speak boldly (Ephesians 6:20). There is no virtue in a bold tongue that is uncontrolled or one so controlled that it is never bold. Our tongues need a “controlled boldness” in order to rebuke sin both publicly (Galatians 2:11-f) and privately (Matthew 18:15). Though the consequences may be unpleasant (Mark 6:16-18) we must speak boldly and when occasion demands it our bold tongues must be blunt (Matthew 23:15). Fear of saying a wrong thing should not keep us from saying the right thing (Matthew 10:26-27). Someone has wisely said, “Silence is not always golden; sometimes it is just plain yellow.”

Paul’s humility (1 Corinthians 15:9) and yet his confidence (2 Timothy 4:7-8) exemplify yet another paradox. Humility should not breed timidity but neither should confidence give rise to arrogance. Humility will keep us aware of our own weaknesses but should never cause a hesitancy to point out sin in the lives of others (1 Corinthians 5:1-13). We are humbled by our liability to err in opinions and understanding of Truth, but are confident that there are some things that cannot be compromised (Galatians 2:5).

The virtue of longsuffering (Galatians 5:22) must be balanced with intolerance (Colossians 2:4,8,16,18). Longsuffering is needed as at-

tempts are made to progress toward maturity, but intolerance is demanded when progress is not made and goals not reached (1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:11-f). It is one thing to suffer long with sinners as they attempt to conquer sin but quite another thing to tolerate wrong-doing (Revelation 2:15-16,20-21).

We must certainly care what others think about us (Matthew 5:13-16) but at the same time think little of how others evaluate us (Galatians 6:10). The virtue of living to influence others (Philippians 2:12-16; 1 Peter 2:11-12) can so easily become the vice of living to please others (Galatians 2:11-f).

Some are prone by “nature” to be “as serpents” or “as doves” and the Devil uses our “natural inclinations” to cause an imbalanced character. He would have us emphasize what comes easily and de-emphasize what doesn’t. As a consequence we often go to extremes: either a pseudo-sophisticated person who thinks that “cultured” people avoid bold speech, confident affirmations, intolerance of sin, and conduct that may “offend” others; or a crudeness that is abusive in speech, arrogant, intolerant, and unconcerned about what others think.

The development of a balanced, yet paradoxical, character does not come quickly (Hebrews 5:12—“by reason of time”) nor is it easy (1 Corinthians 9:25—“striveth...self control”), but there are no short-cuts to maturity.

-via *The Heights Newsletter*; Albuquerque, New Mexico.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Jerry Dickey’s mother, Pat Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence, room 584 ... *Virginia Lovell* has continued to be sick and not able to be at services... *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 three to meet. If you are in group three, remember to meet with your group this evening.

DECATUR MEETING: It was my pleasure to be with the **Old Moulton Road church** in Decatur this past week in a gospel meeting. The meeting went very well and the people were very kind and encouraging. **Bobby Graham** serves as the evangelist there and it was good to spend the week with him and his wife, **Karen**. I appreciate **Mark McIntyre** and **Steve Parker** for filling in for me while I was away. I know they did an excellent job and I know that you were glad to hear them.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The **Midway church** in Green Hill is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. It will on the topic of Islam. **Andrew Roberts of Columbia, Tennessee** will be the speaker ... The **Posey church** in Franklin county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services nightly at 7:00 p.m. **Raymond Harville** will be the speaker.

THE RECORD: For the week of March 12th

Sunday:

Bible Classes 95
 Morning Worship 117
 Evening Worship 77

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 84

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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