

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 26th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (No Reading)
.....
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Monroe Pressnell
Assisting Andrew Gatlin
Serving James McConnell
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Jim Phillips
..... Jacob Rogers
Closing Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (No Reading)
.....
Prayer
..... Steve Parker
Lord's Supper
..... Monroe Pressnell
..... Andrew Gatlin
Closing Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Volume XIII

March 26, 2006

No. 13

Beginning Today

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

Confusion and Transgression

Sewell Hall

Have you ever heard anyone say, as an explanation for some sinful action, “I have become so confused I don’t know what is right anymore”? As a rule, the person who says such a thing is one who has had clear convictions but has acted, or is about to act, contrary to them.

This must be what the Holy Spirit was saying about Eve in 1 Timothy 2:14. “Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”

To say that she was deceived is not to say that she was ignorant. She quoted perfectly what God had said: “We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die’” (Genesis 3:2-3). She was deceived when she thought there could be any valid reason for disobeying God.

We cannot know how long Adam and Eve avoided the forbidden tree. With so many other trees from which to eat, there was no need to eat of it. There is no evidence of confusion regarding the right and wrong of eating or the wisdom of abstaining. They were happy ignoring it.

But along came Satan to draw Eve’s attention to the tree she had been avoiding. He drew her attention to the beauty of the fruit and somehow convinced her, perhaps by eating of it himself, that it was good for food. If he did eat of it, the fact that he did not die surely gave support to his contention that she would not die. One can see the confusion mounting. The arguments she had considered conclusive against eating were rapidly being matched by arguments for doing so. Which arguments were valid? Both seemed to be.

Had Adam been nearby, or had God spoken

again, she might have been reminded once more of the strong reasons for rejecting the fruit. But as it was, the voice of God grew weaker in her memory as the desirability of the fruit was magnified by Satan’s glib lies. All that was needed to tip the balance was the final suggestion of an apparent virtue in eating—the thought that she would become like God. Never mind the legalistic prohibition; surely one could not be blamed for wanting to be like God.

“She took of the fruit and ate” (Genesis 3:6). Tragic words! Tragic consequences! Consequences reaching down through countless generations even to us!

The great mistake of Eve was in allowing herself even to begin thinking about disobedience. This was the mistake of Achan when he first saw the Babylonian garment (Joshua 7:21), of David when he first saw his beautiful neighbor bathing (2 Samuel 11:2) and of Judas when he first thought of betraying Jesus. It is the same mistake each of us makes—men and women alike—whenever we sin.

The Bible says as much: “Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death” (James 1:14-15).

There is ample defense available. If we are wise enough to meditate on God’s laws in such circumstances (Psalm 119:11), and to ask Him for deliverance (Matthew 6:13), He will, with the temptation, “also make the way of escape” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

But all too often, in the name of open-mindedness and objectivity, we feel we are obligated to look at the other side, to consider the “arguments in favor of” sin. We may even be so foolish as to parrot the existential line: “I must get away to myself and sort things out.” If this means getting away for Bible study, meditation and prayer, fine! But this is seldom what it means. As a rule, what it means is: “I want to be

left alone to rationalize my way through the sin that entices me without having to reason with those who would logically or scripturally expose my folly.’

Such conflict between conscience and passion, between logic and emotion, between authority and anarchy, between flesh and spirit will indeed produce confusion—confusion bordering on insanity. But it is a confusion for which we are responsible. It is the peculiar malady of “those who perish because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved” and who “did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thessalonians 2:10,12). It is never surprising when such a person, “being deceived,” falls into transgression.

In Jesus’ day, “there was a division among the people because of Him” (John 7:43). They were confused by the contradictions between His claims and the accusations of their rulers. Jesus stated clearly who would not be confused: “If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak of My own authority” (John 7:17).

Wanting to do God’s will save us from the confusion, deception and transgression into which our mother fell.

-via *The Beacon*; Charlottesville, Virginia



Fruits Worthy of Repentance

Tim Smelser

Pete Rose gambled on baseball and he says he is sorry. Many writers and sportscasters are skeptical though. Rose has not shown remorse, has not asked for forgiveness and has written a

book from which he will profit greatly as people clamor to read the sordid details of his gambling addiction. All of the press coverage reminded me of the actions of many televangelists in the late 80’s.

Some may remember the fall of Jim Baker who made millions as he fleeced his flock and then was charged with sexual misconduct. He tearfully asked for forgiveness and eventually resurfaced as a TV personality. Then there was Marvin Gorman and Jimmy Swaggart, former heads of the Assemblies of God. Both were ousted on charges of sexual misconduct. The Bible warns against these leaders, preachers. Paul told Timothy that some would “suppose godliness is a way of gain” (1 Timothy 6:5). Swaggart was a perfect example of this. He owned a private jet, TV network and a mail order business worth about \$150 million.

John charged the Pharisees and Sadducees to “bring forth fruit worthy of repentance” (Matthew 3:8). Moses warned God’s people, “Be sure, your sins will find you out” (Numbers 32:23). One Assembly of God spokesman told ABC’s Nightline something with which we would heartily agree. He said that someday we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ and that we are all accountable to God. Amen dear sir! Now, if only we would start living like we believe such is true!

-via *The Parchment*; Indianapolis, Indiana.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Amber Hammond* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Lydia Clemmons* was sick and not able to be Bible study Wednesday night... ... *Virginia Lovell* has continued to be sick and not able to be at services... *Jimmie Lovell* has been sick this past week and had some tests done and is doing

better ...*Madia Haraway* had some tests done this past week and the reports were good ...*Jerry Dickey's mother, Pat Dickey*, continues in the ECM hospital in Florence, room 584 ...*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.

OUT OF TOWN: *Signa Skipworth* and *Catherine Parker* are back home after being out of town last week for a wedding.

NEWBABY: We rejoice with *The McIntytres: Mark, Suzette, Sadie and Luke* in the birth of *John Mark McIntyre* at 1:30 a.m. on Saturday. John Mark weighed 7 lbs. 15 ozs. and was 20 inches long. John Mark and Suzette are in the Huntsville hospital and are doing well. *Michael and Sissy Clemmons* are the proud grandparents.

OUR MEETING: Our spring meeting with brother *Sewell Hall* is beginning this morning. I hope that everyone will have made their plans to be present at all the services and will make every effort to do so. The meeting will be good for us and I know that we will enjoy as well as benefit from hearing the lessons. Remember to pray for the meeting and to continue to invite others.

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

Bible Classes 101
 Morning Worship 115
 Evening Worship 77

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 89

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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