

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 5th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Exo. 18:1-12)
..... Brad Hammond
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Monroe Pressnell
Lord's Supper
Presiding Ronnie Phillips
Assisting Aric Butler
Serving Rodney McCray
..... Jim Phillips
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... Daniel Clemmons
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Exo. 18:13-27)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
..... Ronnie Phillips
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Volume XIII

March 5, 2006

No. 10

Look But Don't Touch

Matthew H. Allen

Who has not heard a friend, or an acquaintance make such a statement as the one above? The idea of looking...but not touching is a common practice by the world at large. Even some Christians have been seduced into this kind of thinking. Usually, we hear this statement made just after an attractive person of the opposite sex walks by. Such attitudes should not be that surprising when one considers how pop culture seems to center around the arousing of lusts and the condoning of illicit and deviant sexual relations.

The kind of attitude expressed when making the statement – go ahead...look...but don't touch...is a very dangerous statement and is indicative of an attitude that needs to be improved upon spiritually. This is especially true of the person who claims to be serving God. Paul commanded the Roman brethren to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 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 12:1-2) The Christian must come out of worldly thinking and desires. He must transform himself from the way of unrighteousness into a new person with a godly frame of mind!

The idea of looking...but not touching...indicates that one is not too concerned with "cleaning up" his thoughts. The one who comes to Christ must learn to elevate his thoughts from carnal lusts and desires. Jesus taught that Christianity is a religion of the heart (mind.) One must change his heart so that his actions will be pure. Solomon said for so one thinks in his heart...so is he. (Proverbs 23:7) In the book of Luke we read of the teachings of

Jesus concerning the necessity of putting one's heart in the right condition. For every tree is known by its own fruit...a good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (Luke 6:44-45) What makes up the "abundance" of your heart?

The idea of looking...but not touching... also indicates a willingness to "dumb down" sin. It is an attempt to minimize something that is contrary to the way of God. Such statements are nothing more than the ploy of the devil! The more Satan can fill a person's heart with lusts and the desire to sin, the greater the chance that the person will actually commit the thing which is contrary to God's law. Could this be why Peter wrote encouraging the Christian to be sober, vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8) The devil wants you to minimize sin. He wants you to lust after what God has specifically forbidden. When lusts plant themselves in our mind they have opportunity to develop into sin. Sin brings forth eternal death! (James 1:13-15)

The practice of looking...but not touching...will cause one to lose his soul. We must learn to put away such rationalization. The Christian is to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit. To fill our mind up with the "trash" of the world will place our soul in jeopardy of hellfire. Paul wrote: the works of the flesh are evident, which are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like, of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that *those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God* (Galatians 5:19-21). Notice many of the things listed in this passage list are not only physical acts that God forbids, *but our attitudes about sinful things as well!* One may never physi-

cally commit fornication, but he can lose his soul for the lust that is in his heart!

Perhaps there are other statements such as look...but don't touch that deal with questionable activities. We must refrain from using such logic, as it is simply a mere tool of the devil to steer us away from the fold of God. Remember,...we must seek to have a pure heart so our actions will be pure. We must not "dumb down" sin or minimize its effects. We must remember an attitude of toleration toward sin will cause our souls to be lost! How is your heart?

-via *New Living*; Brownsburg, Indiana.



Personal Growth

Ken Weliever

"We so often view a man's character as if he has always been good when, in fact, his becoming good was a struggle. I am not sure where I picked this up but it bears examination: 'In writing the life of any eminent man, we should not be likely to begin with a period when his character was fully developed and his world-historical importance recognized.

On the contrary, we should study the growth of his being--seek for the bud which concealed the seed, and the powers which conspired to unfold it." It is said of Jesus "...yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered..." We do not always understand the allotments of Divine Providence, but if we believe what the Bible says, we understand that they are often for our learning and our growth." (Dee Bowman)

Personal growth is not easy. It is something for which we must work. Bowman was right, it is indeed a struggle. It takes great effort to become what we can and need to be.

Consider these steps to help you in your personal growth. I believe they will help you.

Choose a Life of Growth. George Eliot said, "The strongest principle of growth lies in human choice." I must decide I really want to grow. When I make that choice, I am simply doing what God wants me to do. Paul wrote, "But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-Christ" (Ephesians 4:15). God both desires and expects us to grow. But growth does not come by accident, it is a choice.

Start Today. The word of the Bible is "today." Today start that reading program. Today begin a new program of personal, mental exercise. It is too easy to wait until tomorrow. Today begin attending leadership class. Start growing today!

Be Teachable. A person who thinks he has already arrived who thinks he knows it all and who will not listen to others, will not grow. Peter exhorts, "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). To accomplish that goal, I must be a teachable person. John Wooden, who led UCLA to a record number of basketball championships, once said, "It's what you learn after you know it all that counts." We keep learning by reading the Bible, taking advantage of classes, seminars, listening to tapes, attending outside functions in our area of need and interest, and reading books and magazines.

Never stay satisfied with current accomplishments. The whole concept of growth means to increase, to develop, to move on. In the early church it says, "But the word of God grew and multiplied" (Acts 12:24). That means there were results, there was growth. Rick Warren said, "The greatest enemy of tomorrow's success is today's success." If we are to rise to our God-given potential, we must not be satisfied with yesterday's growth .

Focus on Self Development, not self ful-

fillment. Self fulfillment is feeling good, finding happiness, or "finding yourself." Self development is much more. It has to do with discovering your purpose, developing your potential and daring to pursue your destiny. Happiness is the by product of a person seeking self development.

Find a way to apply what you have learned. Jesus said, "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them (Jn. 13:117). Yes, faith without works is dead! As Jim Rohn put it, "Don't let your learning lead to knowledge. Let your learning lead to action.

Yes, growth is a struggle. The end result of the character of a Christian is not always evident to the world. But you and I know what it really takes to grow!

-via *Susquehanna Sentinel*; Marietta, Pennsylvania.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Eddie J. Hammond mother, Evelyn Hammond*, had surgery in Florence on Monday ... *Virginia Lovell* has continued to be sick and not able to be at services... *James Albert McConnell* was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday due to not being well... *Lydia Clemmons* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be at services... *Nathan Grisham* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be at services... *Trevor Thornton* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be at services... *Rodney McCrary's mother, Nadine McCrary*, is now home after an extended stay in the hospital and rehabilitation... *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 one to meet. If you are in group one, remember to meet with your group this evening.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We want to extend a warm welcome to *Trent Thornton* and his children, *Tristen, Tirnity and Trevor*. Trent expressed his desire to be identified with us this past week and we are thrilled to have him and his family here. May we all encourage him as he will encourage as in our journey through this life.

OUT OF TOWN: *Aric Butler* is away this weekend at a conference... *Andrea Butler* and *Glenda Phillips* are visiting with family today.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Gooch Lane church* in Madison is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. *David Maravilla* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Westview church* in Hartselle 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 morning – Quentin McCay; Sunday evening – Alton Bailey; Monday evening – Jeremy Paschal; Tuesday evening – Bobby Robinson; Wednesday evening – Gary Carter, Sr.; Thursday evening – Bobby Graham; Friday evening – Dan Graham*... The *Jordan Park church* in Huntsville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with *John Kilgore* speaking. Services will begin at 7:00 p.m.

THE RECORD: *For the week of February 26th*

Sunday: Bible Classes 100
 Morning Worship 116
 Evening Worship 94
Wednesday: Bible Classes 76

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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