

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, April 30th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Exo. 25:23-30)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
Presiding Phil Pressnell
Assisting Aric Butler
Serving Rodney McCrary
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Michael Word
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Exo. 25:31-40)
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Brad Hammond
Lord's Supper
..... Phil Pressnell
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Volume XIII

April 30, 2006

No. 18

“Things Were Written Aforetime”

David A. Cox

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4)

There is no doubt that when Paul mentions the things “written aforetime” he is making reference to the Old Testament. Some have attempted to justify the authority of the Old Testament scriptures by using this verse. However, if Paul had intended that the authority of the Old Testament is still in force today (in the Dispensation of Christ), then this verse would stand in direct contradiction to other passages of Scripture. For example, Paul writing to the Colossians spoke of Christ and the Old Testament, “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross” (Colossians 2:14). Paul stated the purpose of the old law is “to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Galatians 3:24). In verse 25 of Galatians 3, we read “But after faith is come, we are no longer under a school-master.” It is clear that Paul was speaking of the old law being brought to an end which is in keeping with what Christ said about the old law as he lived on this earth (Matthew 5:17; Luke 24:44). Obviously, Paul never intended for this statement, in Romans 15:4, to be used to justify the authority of the Old Testament.

The question now is: “What exactly did Paul say about the use of the Old Testament?” He said it was for our learning so that those who suffer for righteousness will have hope. Paul speaking to Felix, said, “But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call

heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and the prophets: And have hope toward God which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust” (Acts 24:14-15). Notice that Paul said he believed all that was written in the law and the prophets and he had hope as those before him had. As Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, etc. looked by faith to the coming promise of God, so did Paul and in Romans 15:4, Paul is saying so should we. Think of Job and Daniel suffering because of their having a trusting faith in God. This should admonish (comfort) us to live lives that will be acceptable to God, our Father. As we think of the promises given to Abraham and the faithfulness of God in fulfilling them, this should help us to recognize that God is not “slack concerning His promise as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering” (2 Peter 3:9). Men may say the world has not ended yet and they that desire to enjoy the pleasures of sin. But Paul is reminding us that the lessons of the Old Testament are invaluable to us as we live our lives by faith; trusting in the promises of God as those who did so in the days long ago.

As Romans 15:4 affirms, there are many lessons we can gain from the Old Testament that can give us comfort and hope. But Romans should never be used to try to give authority to the Old Testament Scriptures for today.

Vacation Bible School

July 10-14 – 10:00 a.m.

Harold Comer, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

We Need Balanced Preaching

Allen Dvorak

During His public ministry Jesus promised the apostle Peter that he would be given the keys to the kingdom (Matthew 16:13-19). In truth, the Lord promised this privilege to all of the apostles (Matthew 18:18). A key represents the power to open or close; in the case of the kingdom, the apostles were granted the privilege of preaching the requirements of entering the kingdom. They exercised this power on the Day of Pentecost as related in Acts 2.

It must have been quite an exciting day. The apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit who enabled them to speak in other languages. News of this unusual event was noised about and a crowd gathered, wondering what exactly was happening. When some accused the apostles of being drunk, Peter and the others identified the events of the day as being the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:14-21). What followed was a sermon in which the apostles preached the gospel to the assembled Jews.

The sermon began with the affirmation that Jesus was approved of God by means of the miracles, wonders, and signs that He did. Not only was the death of Jesus according to the redemptive purpose of God, but His resurrection was the subject of Old Testament prophecy (vs. 24-31). Peter and the other apostles strengthened their argument about the identity of Jesus by adding that they were eyewitnesses of His resurrection (vs. 32).

Those who heard this sermon were pricked in their consciences and they asked the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (vs. 37). The reason for their reaction was that the apostles in their preaching had accused the Jews twice of crucifying Jesus (vs. 23, 36)! These Jews were convinced that the Man they had crucified was, in fact, the promised Messiah of the Old Testa-

ment. The apostles not only preached about the identity of Jesus, they also pointed out the sin of their listeners.

The gospel is about God's grace. Grace is unmerited favor and God's grace toward us has been expressed in the sending of His Son, the death of that Son and the offer of the forgiveness of sins through His shed blood (John 1:17; 3:16). The apostles preached the grace of God when they advised their listeners on that Day of Pentecost how they could be forgiven of their sins - "repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38).

Before man will seek divine grace, he must be convinced that he needs it. He must understand that he is guilty of sin. The sermon of Acts 2 demonstrates that man must be convicted of sin just as he must be made aware of the solution to his predicament. As Paul wrote, the word of God is profitable for doctrine and instruction in righteousness as well as reproof and correction (2 Timothy 3:16). Balanced and effective preaching will deal with both subjects, grace **and** sin.

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

The Anderson
church of Christ
website at:

www.Anderson-church.org

On the Site You Will Find:

1. Information about the church at Anderson
2. The **Gospel Power** in .pdf format uploaded each Sunday.
3. Sermons preached at Anderson in Real Audio.

Please Visit Our Site Regularly.

Pressnells Depart

David A. Cox

It was with sadness this past Sunday that we listened as Monroe told of his and Yvonne's decision to leave the church here at Anderson and worship closer to their hoime in Athens. I know that Monroe and Yvonne struggled as they made this decision and that it was not easy for them to make. As much as I hate to see them leave, I respect their decision and realize that they must consider their health.

As they leave, I want to commend them for their work they have done while here at Anderson. I appreciate their willingness to do anything to help with the work. Also, I appreciate Monroe for the six years he has served as an elder here and for Yvonne and her support of Monroe as an elder's wife.

Indeed, we will surely miss them both as they leave, but are sure they they will continue to be an assest to the cuause of Christ. We look forward to seeing them on various occasions and look forward to the hope we have of being together one day in a land where there are no separations.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Mary Lovell* had gall bladder surgery on Tuesday in Muscle Shoals. She is at home recovering... *Helen Trousdale* went to be doctor this past week with her heart... *C.L. & Margaret Weathers* were able to be back at services this week after being out sick ... *Virginia Lovell* is not able to be at services due to back problems ... *Henry Trousdale* is at home and not doing well at all... *Eddie J. Hammond* has been sick this past week and was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Ronnie*

Phillips was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... **Larry Johnson** is at home and not able to be out ... Remember **Mark McIntyre's & Tammy Bryant's mother, Oakie Choe**, who has been diagnosed with cancer... **Freda McConnell's sister, Leta Zadigan**, is nearing the end of her treatments. She has three left... **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 ... **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY: It is time for us to update our pictorial directory. **Claus Martel** will be taking the pictures after services for the next week or so. Please get with Claus to get your picture made so we can complete this soon.

SPRING/SUMMER QUARTER: Today we are beginning our spring/summer quarter in Bible classes. We have had a good quarter that ended on Wednesday and I appreciate the dedication of all the teachers this past quarter. I know that this quarter will be a good quarter. If you are not attending our Bible classes, now would be a good time to start. I know that you would benefit spiritually from it.

OUT OF TOWN: **Glenda Phillips** is out of town visiting with family...**The Butlers: Aric and Andrea** are visting in Tennessee today with family ... **Tisha Rogers** is back home after being away due to her work last weekend.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The **Weatherly Heights church** in Huntsville is beginning a meeting tomorow and it will continue through Thursday with services at 7:00p.m. **Jerry Crolius of Conway, Arkansas** will be the speaker.

THE RECORD: *For the week of April 23rd*
Sunday: Bible Classes 112
 Morning Worship 139
 Evening Worship 102
Wednesday: Bible Classes 97

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 (931) 565-3391

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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