

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 9th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Exo. 22:22-31)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper
Presiding Monroe Pressnell
Assisting Jerry Dickey
Serving Jimmie Lovell
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Mark McCrary
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (Exo. 23:1-9)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Steve Parker
Lord's Supper
..... Monroe Pressnell
..... Jerry Dickey
Closing Prayer
..... Larry White

Volume XIII

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No. 15

The Meaning of Life

Daniel Bailey

What is the meaning of life? That's a tough question. Millions of people all through the centuries have spent their lives pondering and searching to produce an answer to this fundamental question of human existence. Many philosophies, religions, schools, cults, and other institutions have found foundation purely in speculating the meaning and purpose, if there is one, of human life – a purpose for all the tragedy, suffering, pain, sorrow, happiness, comfort, relief, and joy that comprise the human experience. However, children of God who have faith that God's word is true and totally sufficient in providing all that we need to know in this life (2 Peter 1:3) have a profound advantage over even the most supreme thinkers and philosophers of the ages, because God provides in the Bible the answers to many of life's hardest questions, if we're but willing to read and accept the infinite wisdom of the Lord.

For instance, consider Acts 17:26-28 – Paul spoke these words while exhorting the philosophers and orators in the midst of the Areopagus in Athens, an audience that spent all their time pondering and questioning new theories and channels of human thought (cf. Acts 17:21):

“And God has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being...”

Now, that statement actually addresses a lot more than just the question that began this short study, but notice that the apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, explains the meaning of life. Why are we here? What is the purpose of human existence? God tells us that He created all nations of all people on the earth so that we might seek Him and reach for Him and, upon finding Him, learn to do His will. That's a simple answer to what many perceive to be the hardest question of all.

Just so that we don't mistake this to be the only passage with the same explanation for the meaning of life, consider also Ecclesiastes 12, and remember that these words were written by King Solomon, the wise king. Solomon implored the Lord to grant Him wisdom and an understanding heart, which he deemed more important than wealth, or longevity, or victory over his enemies (see 1 Kings 3 and 2 Chronicles 1). This wise king went on to explore every aspect of life on earth, all its fleeting joys and sorrows, to discover the purpose and meaning of man's existence. Solomon recorded his findings in the book of Ecclesiastes. The conclusion of this great book of wisdom literature, Ecclesiastes 12:13- 14, reads as follows:

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil."

Wise King Solomon found after all his searching that the meaning of life is not in labor, nor wealth, nor fame, nor power, nor physical pleasure, nor pain, nor folly, but the meaning and purpose of life is to fear God and keep His commandments, because this life is but a brief playing field and all our works will come before God in eternal judgment.

No words can describe the blessing that God's word provides by sufficiently answering

the most fundamental questions of life. The choice belongs to the reader: study God's word and receive it with an open heart to gain faith in God's answers, to live in comfort and hope that cannot be stripped away by the weariness of life; or else refuse the message as too simple or too contrary to modern opinion, and live a life in speculation and vain philosophy with no stability, only faith in the fickle wisdom of men. As Jesus admonished on so many occasions, he who has ears to hear, let him hear (Matthew 19:9, 14-15).

~via *Meditate On These Things*; Woodlawn, New York.



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website at:

[www. Anderson-church.org](http://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.

How To Make Disciples

Carl McMurray

In Luke 5:27-32, Jesus was calling another disciple, who later became one of His twelve apostles. It appears that when our Lord called Levi (Matthew) that he was willing to demon-

strate his conviction by leaving all and following Jesus. Luke records that Levi then had a large “dinner party” for Jesus in his house, where there attended a great crowd of tax-gatherers and others. The Pharisees, being separatists, noted Jesus’ presence and grumbled and criticized Jesus’ actions. The Lord’s answer to them was that a physician is for sick people not healthy ones and repentance (which was the message he preached) was for sinners, not the righteous. In this short account I believe we find some valuable lessons to meditate on and learn from.

First of all, we see an example of a sincere heart that has the spiritual stamina to last a lifetime. No matter how he appears to us at first meeting as a tax collector, Levi’s proper attitude of heart and desire is shown clearly by his actions. Please note, when Jesus called, Levi “left everything.” He didn’t ask to bury his father, say good-bye, or anything else. And considering his profession when he left everything he left some degree of power and potential wealth. Nevertheless, he left it all.

Secondly, he did not stop with walking away from carnal pursuits, he “began to follow Him.” That is, he spent time with Jesus, listened to His teaching and began to lay down his path toward an eternal home in heaven. He was not like some who try to change their lives by turning away from sinful activities, but then, never put anything positive into their lives to take the place of those activities. Levi began to follow Jesus so that he could fill his heart and life with the teachings of the Master.

The last thing that we will mention that illustrates Levi’s most excellent mind-set is the fact that not only did he set himself to follow Jesus, but he immediately invited a crowd of co-workers and acquaintances to come and meet Jesus also. He didn’t just wish his friends and co-workers well, he launched into action. He invited his friends to come and meet Jesus and he

arranged the situation so they could do so. Many today are also learning the value and pleasure of inviting other into their home to meet Jesus in individual studies or group studies. In doing this they are imitating the sincerity of Levi.

Getting our attitude set for spiritual growth, going into action to accomplish that goal, and then actively sharing with friends and co-workers - this has been the way to make disciples from the earliest days and continues until now.

-via *The Good News*; Anderson, Indiana



News and Notes

THE SICK: *Doris Newton’s brother, Preston Dean*, is now at home from the ECM hospital ... *My mother, Jackie Cox*, had an arteriogram done on Tuesday and the report was good. She came home from the hospital on Wednesday... *John Lovell* had an arteriogram done on Thursday and the reports were good ... *Jimmie Lovell* had some tests done this past week ... *Jerry Dickey’s mother, Pat Dickey*, is now at home from the hospital ... *Larry Johnson* is at home and not able to be out... *My aunt, Martha Morris*, has concluded her treatments and the reports seem good ... Remember *Freda McConnell’s sister, Leta Zadigan*, who has been dignosed with cancer... *Myrtie Williams* is at home unable to be out... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ... *Judy Williams’ mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nurs-

ing 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.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: *Kevin and Laurie Chancellor* have expressed their desire to be members of the Anderson church. We are glad they are here and want to extend a warm welcome to them and help them to feel at home. They are relocating here from Texarkana, Arkansas.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Shelia Goode and Lou Ann Phillips* and all the family in the passing of Shelia and Lou Ann's grandmother, *Vera Simmons*, this past Sunday afternoon. She was buried in Haleyville on Wednesday.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Capshaw church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Mark White* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *West Madison Street church* in Pulaski, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Services Monday through Friday will be at 7:00 p.m. *Wes Brown* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Eastside church* in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Services Monday through Friday will be at 7:00 p.m. *Bob Waldron* will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: *For the week of April 2nd*

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 99
- Morning Worship 128
- Evening Worship 82

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 88

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
- 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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