

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, May 14th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Bible Reading (Exo. 27:12-21)

..... Kevin Chancellor

Prayer

..... Aric Butler

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

Lord's Supper

Presiding Jimmy Glass

Assisting Larry White

Serving Zack Rogers

..... Curtis Mosley

..... Rodney McCrary

..... Jim Phillips

Closing Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Eddie J. Hammond

Bible Reading (Exo. 28:1-14)

..... Brian Word

Prayer

..... Steve Parker

Lord's Supper

..... Jimmy Glass

..... Larry White

Closing Prayer

..... Brad Hammond

Volume XIII

May 14, 2006

No. 20

Why I Believe Jesus Is Coming Again

Bubba Garner

Jesus is coming—this I know, for the Bible tells me so. “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first” (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

The Lord devotes a significant amount of time and space in His gospel (at least 318 referrals in the 260 chapters of the New Testament) to the certainty, description, and implications of the Second Coming. All of these passages emphasize the need for our constant preparation and continual readiness since no man knows the day or hour of His arrival.

I believe that Jesus is coming again...

Because the prophecies regarding His first coming were accurate. Biblical scholar Henry Liddon recognizes some 332 Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament that were fulfilled by Jesus Christ in the New Testament; the chances that all of these were completed coincidentally are 1 to 84×10^{23} . In as much as the prophets of old proved impeccably faithful in their prediction of His initial arrival, I have no reason to doubt the Apostles' predictions of His Second Coming. After all, the same God inspired both sets of writers.

Since Jesus came into the world in the humble manner foretold by Micah (5:2), I am confident that He will return in His predicted power and glory (Mark 13:26). Since Jesus fulfilled the prophecy that He would be raised from the dead (Psalm 16:10), I have faith in His own promise to return and grant those who have done good

deeds a resurrection of life and those who have done evil deeds a resurrection of judgment (John 5:28-29). Since He did and is, I believe He will.

Because the Lord has promised complete redemption of His people. By the blood of Christ and our obedience to His will, we have the forgiveness of our sins. We have been set free from the bondage of death and been given a newness of life that only comes by being in a right relationship with God. These things, however, are just a foretaste of what will be ours after the Second Coming. We have been given the Holy Spirit as a pledge, a down payment of our salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14), but I want to be paid in full.

This completion comes when the renewed spirit is fitted with a new body that will endure forever, being freed from destruction, decay, and the devastation of time. Paul talks about this natural body being sown perishable, in dishonor and in weakness, and being raised a spiritual body, imperishable, in glory and power. "When this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, 'Death is swallowed up in victory'" (1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 54).

When will this happen? "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:52). There is no doubt that our God has already done more for us than we will ever deserve; just imagine what will be ours at the final act of redemption. He keeps His promises, so you better keep yours.

Because the God of justice has also promised repayment and retribution. "For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven" (2 Thessalonians 1:5-8). Our Father has not ignored the cries and perse-

cution of His children but has requested our patience and forbearance saying, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay" (Romans 12:19).

Life is full of inequities and circumstances that just don't seem fair. "Tempted and tried, we're oft made to wonder" goes the old favorite, *Farther Along*. Over the years, these inequalities have discouraged the people of God to the extent that they have shut their eyes of faith and lifted their anchor of hope. They have forgotten that the just God, the great Equalizer, has reserved a day in which He will finally vindicate the righteous and avenge the unrighteous. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

That's why I believe Jesus is coming again—the Bible teaches it and the Lord promises it. Without it, we would have no reason to hope, no promise of relief. With it, we have the motivation to persevere and endure. Let us be on the alert, watching and waiting for His return that we might be rescued from the corruption of this world and escape the certain condemnation of the worldly.

Lord Jesus, come quickly.

-via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.



Vacation Bible School

July 10-14 – 10:00 a.m.

Harold Comer, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

I Have Today

Allen Dvorak

The concept of time travel used to be a theme peculiar to science fiction movies and stories. The theory was that if man could achieve a certain speed, he would begin to travel in time rather than in distance. Christopher Lloyd, the frenetic professor in the “Back to the Future” series of movies, popularized the phrase “time-space continuum.” Time travel is certainly an interesting concept. According to Mr. Lloyd, if one “disrupts the time-space continuum” (whatever that means!) in the past, he changes the reality of the present and the future.

The prospect of travelling into the past to change it is certainly alluring (I would fix it so that I avoided that 5th grade paddling by Mrs. Benton), but the truth is that no one can change the past. We can fret about the past, “live” in the past (meaning that we ignore the reality of the present), etc., but we cannot change it.

The fact that we cannot change the past does not mean that the past has no consequences. The things that I have done in the past create obligations for me in the present and perhaps even into the future. Commitments I have made in the past (my conversion to Jesus Christ, marriage vows to my spouse, etc.) must be honored now. I cannot change the fact that I have sinned in the past, but I can determine my present attitude toward those sins. Repentance is literally a change of mind about one’s conduct. I can decide in the present that I will not do in the future what I did in the past. It may be that sinful actions in the past require restitution (one of the “fruits” of repentance; see Matthew 3:8) or confession of sin to those against whom I have sinned. Sin has no statute of limitations, meaning that regardless of how much time passes, my sins are not automatically erased. I must accept the responsibility of my past actions.

Furthermore, I need to learn from the past. The school of hard knocks can provide some vivid lessons, but not all of its students pay attention to the lessons presented. In addition to my repentance, I can learn from the past what situations I want to avoid in the present. I can recognize what temptations have been difficult for me to resist in the past and “give no place to the devil” (Ephesians 4:27). The unpleasant consequences of my past actions can serve as powerful motivation not to repeat such actions in the present.

It is possible, however, to “spend too much time” in the past. The tendency is to rest on my laurels (achievements) in the past and forget that today presents new challenges and opportunities. The apostle Paul would not have us to completely ignore the past, but he encourages us to avoid dwelling there (Philippians 3:13-14). If I can live today acceptably, the past will take care of itself; after all, today is tomorrow’s past!

~via *News & Notes*; Madison, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Amber Hammond* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be at services...*Helen Trousdale* continues to need rest due to her blood pressure being low...*Henry Trousdale* is at home and not doing well at all... *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... *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 ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

CONGRATULATIONS: We want to congratulate *Cori Williams* and *Katy Goode* on their graduation from college this past week. We rejoice with them in their accomplishments and wish for them the very best. May they be blest in their lives as they continue to serve the Lord.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY: Remember that we are currently working on getting pictures done for a new pictorial directory. If you did not get your picture made last week get with *Claus Martel* today and have your picture made.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Pressnells: Phil and Logan* are in Mobile this weekend for the state golf tournament... *The Clemmons: Michael and Sissy* are going to be in Gatlinburg this week for an electrical show... *The Clemmons: Daniel, Marla, Lydia and Laura* will be in Gatlinburg also... *Cindy Pressnell* will be out of town this week with her work... *The Coxes: Kerry, Tyler, Hunter and I* are in Haleyville today as I begin a meeting with the Needmore church.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Belgreen church* in Belgreen is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00p.m. *Bobby Graham* will be the speaker ...The *Needmore church* in Haleyville is beginnng a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. I will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: *For the week of May 7th*

Sunday: Bible Classes 114
 Morning Worship 131
 Evening Worship 86

Wednesday: Bible Classes 92

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.
 Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

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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