

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 21st

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Exo. 27:12-21)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Ronnie Phillips
Assisting Mark McIntyre
Serving Jacob Rogers
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Mark McCrary
..... James McConnell
Closing Prayer
..... Claus Martel

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Exo. 28:1-14)
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Lord's Supper
..... Ronnie Phillips
..... Mark McIntyre
Closing Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Volume XIII

May 21, 2006

No. 21

Find A Way To Be Content

Brent Moody

Paul said in his letter to the church at Philippi, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). This scripture is often used to assert the idea that God miraculously aided someone in an athletic, social, or economic accomplishment. God's providence is beyond my comprehension, and I believe that He has given us all of our talents and abilities. But we must be careful to use scriptures, like this one, in their proper context. In this text Paul is not talking about such things as Michael Phelps winning eight medals in the 2004 Olympics, or Craig Biggio recording 2,600 major league baseball hits. Paul is talking about the ability to find contentment, no matter the situation.

The preceding two verses, Phil. 4:11-12, say this, "Not that I speak in regard to need for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." Contentment is what Paul is making reference to when he says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

We must recognize that contentment is a learned attitude. Paul said, "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content" and again, "I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." Paul was willing to accept whatever lifestyle the Lord blessed him with. Whether he was traveling around the world to various cities proclaiming God's word, or confined to a few hundred square feet, under house arrest, Paul always found a way to be content. Paul was so successful at finding

contentment that he turned a “thorn in the flesh” into a gift of God used to maintain his humility. Later in the same context, found in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Paul said, “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Brethren, we must, no matter what the circumstances, find a way to be content. Finding contentment has as much or more to do with our attitude than the situation we are in. Daniel purposed in his heart to not defile himself with the king’s delicacies—and he did not do so. We must purpose in our hearts to learn, in whatever state we are in, to be content. If we do not decide to be content, we will easily become discontent. Although there is nothing wrong with being wealthy in this life, if we truly “seek first the kingdom of heaven” even the bare necessities of life will be enough to bring us contentment. For that to be the case, we must purpose in our hearts that we will always find a way to be content.

Too many of us purpose in our hearts to seek after worldly possessions. If Solomon with all of his wealth and power could never find satisfaction in materialistic desires, what makes us think we will even come close? Solomon wrote an entire book, Ecclesiastes, relaying his experiences with the pleasures of the world, and the discontentment he found in worldly possessions. Do you remember the conclusion to his book? Solomon said, “Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). If worldly possessions were “man’s all,” Solomon would have found plenty of contentment without God. But Solomon recognized that without God everything was vain, and there was no contentment to be gained.

Paul’s bold statement, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13), has little to do with worldly accomplishments, but much to do with finding contentment as a child of God. Purpose in your heart that you will always, with God’s help, find a way

to be content. Then, like Paul, you can say, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

-via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.



The Eunuch’s Secret

Joe Fitch

Look at a man who found the way of salvation (Acts 8:26-39). Do you know the secret of his success?

He had **an open book**. We first meet him reading from the scriptures (vs. 28). “Have you not read” (Matthew 12: 3,5;19:4; 21:16 etc.) and “What saith the scriptures?” (Romans 4:3) are inspired appeals for open Bibles. Jesus said the Sadducees were wrong about the resurrection “not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God” (Matthew 22:29). Is it strange to find people wrong about spiritual things when they never open their Bibles?

“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ” (Ephesians 3:4). Confusion is banished by knowledge. Reading an open book — is the first key to “understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:17).

Many people avow they are looking for truth yet they never open their Bibles. They claim to love truth but refuse to discuss the scriptures. Something is wrong somewhere! “... thy word is truth” (John 17:17).

The man from Ethiopia also had **an open mind**. Many people protest they cannot under-

stand scripture. The problem may not be so much hard scripture as hard hearts. People observed the miracles of Jesus but just “couldn’t see” that he was Christ. Why? They closed their eyes (Matthew 13:15). It is hard to see anything with your eyes closed!

Consider the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10: 29-36). Why couldn’t the priest and Levite see the wounded man?

Was he hidden? No, they knew he was there. The Samaritan had no problem finding him. Suppose we move the wounded man into the middle of the road where you can’t walk around him — the priest and Levite will just look up, step over, and keep walking! Attitude makes the difference. The Samaritan was willing to see.

Prejudice (pre-judging) is an enemy of the quest for truth. A verdict is reached before the evidence is heard. Nathaniel didn’t ask Phillip how he knew Jesus of Nazareth to be the Christ; he just said, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” (John 1:45, 46). He made up his mind when he heard Nazareth mentioned. Likewise, Jesus was discredited in Nazareth — his family were all common people(Mark 6: 2-4). Stephen preached the truth and was killed (Acts 7: 51-60). These people were — as he charged — “stiff necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears” (closed minded).

“Come and see” (John 1:46) is the only answer to prejudice. An honest heart will consider the facts — and change when wrong. Others will find excuses or ignore the situation completely.

An **open mind** and an **open book** can be the secret to your success. It was for the Bereans. “they received the word with all readiness of mind — an open mind — and searched the scriptures daily — an open book — whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11). Or you can close your mind and Bible and drift gently on waves of self satisfaction to hell!

-via *The Cornerstone*; Richmond, Virginia.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Amber Hammond* continued to be 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...*Phil Pressnell* has had a bout with kidney stones this past week, but is better now... *Mark McIntyre's & Tammy Bryant's mother, Oakie Choe*, is to have surgery on Tuesday at Kirkland Clinic in Birmingham... *Lou Ann Phillips* has been sick this past week and was not able to be at Bible study...*Samuel Phillips* and *Molly Kate Phillips* have both been sick this past week...*Taylor Mosley* has been sick this past week and was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Glenda Phillips' aunt, Vernon Green*, is in St. Thomas hospital ... *Larry Johnson* is at home and not able to be out ...*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 nursing facility in Fayette ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Aric Butler* in the passing of his grandmother this past week. Her funeral is in Anniston this afternoon.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Butlers: Aric and Andrea* are in Anniston today for Aric’s grandmother’s funeral... *James Word* is in Florida for the graduation his granddaughter, Glenda Tegg.

SONG SERVICE: Tonight will be the time for our regular scheduled song service. Jerry Dickey will be directing the service this evening. I hope that everyone will make their plans to be present as we lift our voices in songs of praise to our God.

NEW BABY: *Wynell Ridgeway* is the proud grandmother of a boy born last Wednesday in Huntsville. His name is *William Alton Brown* and he is now at home with his parents *Tony and Karen*.

HENRY TROUSDALE 1917-2006: It is with sadness that we announce the passing of brother Henry Trousdale. Brother Trousdale was a splendid example of what a Christian should be and we are all better for having known and seen his example. We will miss him here and his faithfulness in service. The visitation will be today from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Elkins East Chapel in Center Star. The funeral will be tomorrow morning at 11:00 a.m. at the East Chapel with the burial following at the Civitan Cemetary in Rogersville. May the Lord bless the Trousdale family in this time of sorrow.

HALEYVILLE MEETING: It was my privilege to be with the *Needmore church* in Haleyville this past week preaching in their spring meeting. It was good to see many people in that area that we do not get to see often. It was also good to be around Kerry's and my parents too. The meeting went very well and the brethren were so kind and encouraging. The work seems to be doing well. My father, *Cecil Cox*, is the preacher there. I want to thank *Kevin Chancellor* for preaching for me while I was away and *Rocky Rose* for teaching my class.

THE RECORD: *For the week of May 14th*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 93
 Morning Worship 110
 Evening Worship 79

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 80

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
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