

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 28th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Bible Reading (Exo. 29:10-18)
..... Rocky Rose
Prayer
..... Phil Pressnell

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Steve Parker
Assisting Claus Martel
Serving Aric Butler
..... Corey Goode
..... Brad Hammond
..... Rodney McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Exo. 29:19-28)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper
..... Steve Parker
..... Claus Martel
Closing Prayer
..... Larry White

Volume XIII

May 28, 2006

No. 22

Keeping It Excellent By Keeping It Godly

Don Hooton

Peter said, "Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation." (1 Peter 2:11-12).

The struggle between sin and righteousness, eased by the gospel (Romans 7:14-25) but never far away from any Christian (1 John 1:8-10), can overwhelm anyone who is working at this excellence Peter commands. Yet there are remedies and incentives that we have at our disposal to keep our lives "excellent". Of course, this excellence is not sinless perfection or high minded arrogance that excuses any shortcoming. It is godly faith. We should trust that inspired men knew that their inspired advice would indeed inspire us to excellence through godliness. So how can we?

First, fill your mind with the Scripture. Peter says, "like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation" (1 Peter 2:2). Like Jesus, read, study and memorize it so that when temptation comes you will be able to respond, "It is written." I read somewhere that "The Bible will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from the Bible." So keep your behavior excellent by filling your mind with Scripture.

Second, be smart about what tempts you. Paul said, "flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness" (2Timothy 2:22). "Flee immorality!" (1 Corinthians 6:18), "flee from idolatry" (1 Corinthians 10:14) and even flee from greed and "get rich"

lifestyles (1 Timothy 6:11). Whether it is the internet, the TV, the radio, or music, be smart about what tempts you and flee.

Third, overcome one sin at a time. Paul said, “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God” (Romans 6:12-13). The more you allow God to strengthen you to overcome, the greater strength you will have at the next temptation.

Last, be a participant in the fellowship of Christians. The Bible says, “Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:25). The fellowship of believers, the church, is crucial to living life in Christ. If the church is the pillar and ground of truth (1 Timothy 3:15), where else would godly people want to be? The association is no magic rub that guarantees righteousness; but without it, the opportunity to ungodliness exponentially increases. So keep it excellent by keeping it godly and make sure you are at services. Don’t just be there – participate and consider how to stimulate to good deeds – and you’ll find it.

“Christians aren’t perfect” says one bumper sticker yet Christians should be committed to godly excellence. It is not the flawless achievement that heaven will demand but the faithful endeavor of every day. It is that endeavor, my friend, that glorifies God with “excellent behavior.”

–via *Folsom Point View*; Folsom, California.

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Peter’s Simple Answer

Allen Dvorak

The truth must have hit them like a ton of bricks. They had rejected the very Son of God and clamored for the release of a known murderer rather than see Jesus freed. As the apostles affirmed that this Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Christ and had been raised from the dead, the gathered crowd became agitated. “What shall we do?” was the question that they asked.

The answer given was simple. “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). The question of what to do to be saved has been asked countless times over the intervening centuries. What answer would you give?

Relatively few people today would respond to that question exactly as the apostle Peter did on the Day of Pentecost. Why not? Despite Peter’s comment that the purpose of baptism is the remission of sins, most people today feel the need to “explain away” baptism. Water baptism cannot be necessary for salvation, we are told, or salvation would be a matter of works. It is never good Bible study to deny what the Bible plainly says!

Salvation is by the life of Christ (Romans 5:10). It is through faith (Ephesians 2:8). We are saved by grace (Ephesians 2:5); it is according to the divine mercy that we are saved (Titus 3:5). The “implanted word” (NKJV) is able to save us. We could continue this train of thought by noting the critical part that the blood of Jesus plays in the forgiveness of sins and thus our salvation (Ephesians 1:7). Most people would agree that faith, grace, mercy, the word of God and the blood of Jesus are critical elements of our salvation. The apostle Peter wrote, “There is also an antitype which now saves us; baptism

(not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” (1 Peter 3:21; NKJV). While Peter affirms that the real significance of baptism is that it represents the “answer of a good conscience,” he clearly states that “baptism saves us.” No one would argue that man can be saved by his faith apart from the mercy of God or divine grace. Why, then, do folks resist the idea that water baptism is necessary for salvation?

We cannot be saved in our sins. Yet water baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Does that not say that water baptism is necessary for salvation? No one can be saved outside of Christ, i.e., without a spiritual relationship with Christ. Yet we are baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27). Does that not say that water baptism is necessary for salvation? Rather than deny what one part of God's word says in preference to another, we should try to understand how all these parts work together.

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



“God’s Help Is Near”

Jason Cicero

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1; NKJV). Faith is the belief that God is real and that GOD is good. It is a choice to believe that the one who made it all hasn’t left it all and that He still sends light into the shadows and responds to gestures of faith.

Faith is the belief that God will do what is right. God says that the more hopeless your

circumstances, the more likely, your salvation. The greater your cares, the more genuine your prayers. The darker the room, the greater the need for light.

God’s help is near and always available, but it is only given to those who seek it. As the apostles of old, let us offer this prayer to our God and Father: “*Lord, increase our faith*” (Luke 17:5).

~via *Perry Hill Road Bulletin*; Montgomery, Alabama.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Amber Hammond* is scheduled to have surgery this Wednesday in Florence ...*Helen Trousdale* was very dehydrated on Wednesday evening and was not doing well at all. She continues to rest to help her blood pressure to come up...*Mark McIntyre’s & Tammy Bryant’s mother, Okie Cho*, had surgery in Birmingham on Tuesday and came home from the hospital on Thursday... *Virginia Lovell* has been sick and not able to be at services ...*Jimmie Lovell* was better and was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*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.

GRADUATES: We want to congratulate our graduates this year. *Michael Word* graduated from *Anderson Junior High* on Tuesday evening. *Logan Pressnell* graduated from *West Limestone High* on Thursday evening. *Anthony Wallen* graduated from *Lauderdale County High* on Friday evening. We wish the very best for our graduates as they end one phase of life and begin another. May the Lord bless them and may they seek to please the Lord in their lives.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Butlers: Aric and Andrea* are away visiting with family today ... *The Dickeys: Jerry, Charlotte, Justin and Brandon* are away this week on vacation.

ELDERS MEETING The elders will be meeting this afternoon at 4:30 p.m. at the building.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: *Janice Moody* has expressed her desire to be a part of the church here at Anderson. We are glad to have Janice here and let us extend a warm welcome to her.

THE RECORD: *For the week of May 21st Sunday:*

Bible Classes 102
 Morning Worship 121
 Evening Worship 90

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 92



Vacation Bible School

July 10-14 – 10:00 a.m.

Harold Comer, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
 Anderson, Alabama

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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