

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, June 11th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Bible Reading (Exo. 30:22-33)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer
..... Brad Hammond

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
Presiding Phil Pressnell
Assisting Kevin Chancellor
Serving Rodney McCrary
..... Eddie Hammond
..... Aric Butler
..... Jimmie Lovell
Closing Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Exo. 30:34-38)
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Larry White
Lord's Supper
..... Phil Pressnell
..... Kevin Chancellor
Closing Prayer
..... Steve Parker

Volume XIII

June 11, 2006

No. 24

While We Walk The Pilgrim Pathway

Bubba Garner

The people of God are called by many names in scripture: saints, disciples, priests, and kings. But the same Bible uses another word to describe God's children: pilgrim. It's not one we use much to describe ourselves, perhaps because we are uncomfortable with the concept behind it. The fact is, you can't be a saint, disciple, priest, or king without a willingness to become a sojourner, stranger, foreigner, a pilgrim.

We certainly have no trouble thinking of Abraham that way, a man who left his home not knowing where God was going to take Him. His whole life was a pilgrimage, dwelling in tents as an alien in the very land that was promised to him. Concerning Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the writer of Hebrews says, "all these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13). They never saw the fulfillment of the covenant, the mystery unfolded, the big picture revealed, but still they were pilgrims. How much more ought we, recipients of better promises, under a better covenant, be willing to be sojourners in this land because we know we're going to a better country?

I offer these suggestions to help us stay on the pilgrim's pathway.

Find where you fit. It is just part of our nature to want to fit it, to blend in with our culture. No one wants to be a misfit, much less stay one. But when you lose your identity as a pilgrim, you lose your identity as a Christian. The commonality behind the words

sojourner, stranger, alien and exile is the fact that Christians don't fit in where they live. We have no business trying to belong in a world that is not our home.

You're either apart from the world or you're a part of it. In making your choice, remember that Jesus said, "my kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). Where is your citizenship? Finding where you fit involves finding where you don't fit.

Don't be afraid to act like a foreigner.

People who dress differently, talk differently, and act differently are going to be treated differently. Peter addressed the 1st Century Christians as "aliens and strangers" to "abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles" (1 Peter 2:11-12). His solution was for them to keep doing what they'd been doing, to show the world where they belonged.

You prepare for the next world by living well in this world. Fleshly lusts have no place in the spiritual person, a pilgrim whose mind is somewhere else. Talking like a foreigner is no embarrassment to him whose true citizenship is in heaven. Dressing like a foreigner is no problem for a young lady who covets no attention for herself but wants peoples' eyes to be focused on her Master in heaven. "Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God" (Hebrews 11:16). Let us, then, not be ashamed to be called His pilgrims.

Keep looking for the city. The pilgrim's journey will eventually come to an end. Those who spent their whole lives wandering, dwelling as strangers and exiles, will finally reach their home and have a city to call their own. It is the city which has foundations that Abraham was looking for (Hebrews 11:10), the inheritance Peter describes as being reserved (1 Peter 1:4), the abode that John says is made ready as a bride adorned for her husband (Revelation 21:2).

Heaven is a place for misfits and outcasts, a

place where everyone fits in and everyone belongs. That's because everyone will look like and talk like and be like the God who brought them safely inside the city.

Stay on the pathway, pilgrim. Traveling days are almost over.

-via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas



Oh...Daddy I Forgot

Gary W. Hollaway, Sr.

At sunset I was quite tired from transplanting a cherry tree in the front yard of my corner lot; but I still needed to tie it down to protect it from the wind. As I pounded stakes into the ground I heard the gleeful squeals of small children in the distance. Looking up, I saw a man following two small bicycles heading in my direction. One bike was clad with pink ribbons and a tiny little girl. Big brother, though not much bigger, was riding ahead. I returned to pounding stakes.

Moments later I heard the man say, "Do not cross the street. Wait for me at the corner." Sure enough, when I looked back the boy had peddled farther ahead and was waiting at the corner. "Which way should we go, Daddy?" said the little boy raring to cross. "Let's go this way son, so we can stay on the sidewalk," said the man, "There's not a sidewalk on that side of the street." I saw them turn and go up the cul-de-sac away from my house.

I finished pounding in the stakes and was cutting twine when I heard again, "Do not cross

the street. Wait for me at the corner.” Again, the boy had zipped ahead and was waiting at the street corner. As his dad caught up with him the boy asked, “Can we cross the street now?” The man said “yes” and the boy zoomed to the sidewalk in front of my house and started down the short cul-de-sac that I live on.

I tied a strip of cloth around the trunk of the tree and began tying twine to the cloth. “Wait at the corner” said the man as he rounded the end of the cul-de-sac. A few moments later I heard a shout, “Son, why did you cross the street? Why didn’t you wait for me?” There was no answer. The man asked again, “Why did you cross the street?” After a pause the boy explained, “Because I wanted to.” The father was distressed, “I told you to wait for me!” After a longer pause the boy replied, “Oh...Daddy, I forgot.” “No, that is not acceptable.” said the disappointed man, “Now I can no longer trust you. Our walk is over.”

How familiar those words sounded as I remembered my own children saying, “because I wanted to” or “I forgot.” And “I can no longer trust you” struck deep sorrow. The deed was done, the trust was broken, and the walk was over.

As I finished tying the twine to the stakes, I realized the greater significance of the event I had just witnessed. I remembered when my Father in heaven had told me to “wait at the corner” and I did not listen. How that must have disappointed Him! The trust I shattered as I disobeyed His word... and my “walk” with God ended.

-via *Mining The Scriptures*; Madison, Alabama.

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

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

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Amber Hammond* continues her recovery at home...*Shelia Goode* has been sick this past week and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Jim and Samuel Phillips* were sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Jack Tucker* is not able to be out as much as he would like and we have missed him and Onzell at services...*Mary Lovell* was sick this past week, but 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 has ended 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.

OUT OF TOWN: *Sheila Moore* is in Michigan for her brother's funeral...*Andrea Butler* is in Birmingham this week.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the night for Communication Group two to meet. If you are in group two remember to meet with your group this evening.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY This morning *Claus Martel* will continue the taking of pictures for our new pictorial directory. If you have not had your picture made get it made as soon as possible so we can get the updated directory published.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: *Erica Crunk* has expressed her desire to be a part of the work here at Anderson. Let's extend a warm welcome to *Erica*, her husband *Steven* and their son, *Carson*...Also, *Deidra Williams* has expressed her desire to be a part of the work here as well. Let us extend a warm welcome to *Deidra*.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathies to *Jerry Dickey* and *all the family* in

the passing of Jerry's mother, *Pat Dickey*. Her funeral was Friday in Florence...Also our sympathy goes to **Rodney McCrary** and *all the family* in the passing of rodney's aunt, Beatrice Embry. Her funeral was Friday in Lewisburg...Also our sympathy goes to **Sheila Moore** and *all the family* in the passing of her brother, *David Flanagan*. His funeral will be on Monday in Michigan.

GOSPEL MEETING/VBS: The **College View church** in Florence will have a lectureship this week beginning tomorrow through Thursday. The services will begin at 9:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; 7:00p.m. & 8:00 p.m. The speakers in the lectureship will be: *Dee Bowman; Kenny Moorner; Ralph Walker and Weldon Warnock*. They will have a peeriod of congregational singing beginning at 6:30 p.m. each evening led by *R.J. Stevens* ...The **West Rogersville church** in Rogersville is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. Services will begin at 7:30 p.m. tonight and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker...The **College Place church** in Lawrence-burg will be having a Vacation Bible school Monday through Friday at 10:00 a.m.

THE RECORD: *For the week of May 28th*

Sunday: Bible Classes 109
 Morning Worship 122
 Evening Worship 86
Wednesday: Bible Classes 87

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

Evangelist & Editor
 David A. Cox (256) 247-1049
 Office-(256) 247-5539
 E-mail address: dacoxx@hiwaay.net

U.S. Postage
 Paid
 Bulk Rate
 Anderson, Alabama
 Non-Profit
 Permit #6

Anderson church of Christ
 P.O. Box 66
 Anderson, Alabama 35610

Return Service Requested