

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, July 23rd

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Exo. 35:10-19)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Claus Martel

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Lord's Supper
Presiding Ronnie Phillips
Assisting Phil Pressnell
Serving Brad Hammond
..... Mark McCrary
..... Jacob Rogers
..... Jimmie Lovell
Closing Prayer
..... Larry White

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Exo. 35:20-26)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
..... Ronnie Phillips
..... Phil Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass

Volume XIII

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Spread Nets In A Bird's Sight

Aaron Beard

There have been many good Christians who have suffered spiritual and even physical ruin due to their close associations with those who are of the world. Solomon spent much time warning his "son" not to be allured in by those who are evil. It is obvious that Solomon understood the powerful draw toward sin the ungodly could have upon the young person. Proverbs 12:26 says, "The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray."

There are certain things that Solomon tells his son he can do to avoid the destruction his worldly associations would bring him:

First of all, remember the counsel of your parents: In Proverbs 1:8-9 Solomon wrote saying, "My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; for they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck." Throughout the years there have been many warnings sounded by parents that have simply bounced off the ears of their sons and daughters. Some get upset when their parents will not allow them to go out with a group of their "friends." They suppose their parents just do not want them having fun, friends, or a life. What they tend to forget is that their parents have not forgotten exactly how easy it is to follow "friends" into spiritual destruction. If you do get into a crowd that would lead you into sin, remember the teaching your parents have given you and follow it instead of the path of your "friends."

Secondly, do not consent when they urge you sin: Solomon writes, "My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent" (Proverbs 1:10). This lesson is simple, yet if the advice is adhered to, great

harm would be avoided. Teachers, parents, and police officers have sounded this warning for years saying, “Just say no!” If one will refuse to follow his friends into evil, they will soon learn what he will and will not do. The problem is that some young Christians reply to the sinners’ enticements with a shaky answer. They seem to find every reason to not participate without saying, “I cannot do that... I am a Christian!” Its almost as if they are ashamed of the real reason. Their reasoning may leave their worldly friends thinking they want to follow them into the sin and would if it was up to them.

Thirdly, do not “walk in the way with them” toward spiritual ruin: Proverbs 1:15 says, “My son, do not walk in the way with them, keep your foot from their path” (Proverbs 1:15). Some have been burned by sin because they were convinced they could be around it constantly through their friends and it never affect them. Solomon said of this mindset, “Can a man take fire to his bosom and his clothes not be burned?” (Proverbs 6:27). Even strong Christians have been pulled down because they spend time “walking in the way with them.” Psalms 1:1 says, “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful...” If you are walking with the wrong crowds, you will probably wind up doing the wrong things. If you want to be righteous, you will walk with those who are righteous; however, if you want to be sinful, you will walk with sinners. The group you walk with gives a serious reflection of your intentions in your service to God. Remember the warning of Paul, “Let him who thinks he stand, take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12).

Finally, Keep your eyes open to the snares laid before you: Describing the one who would follow his friends into sin, Solomon says, “Surely, in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird...” (Proverbs 1:17). The picture here is of a hunter that is trying to trap a bird. Even a bird

will not fly into a trap that is set right in front of him. How much more sense humans have than birds! The one to whom Solomon writes has had the teaching and can identify what is right and what is wrong. He can identify the danger into which his friends are leading him. Surely, he will not follow them to destruction!

Christians must keep an open eye for those who would entice them to sin. It may come in the form of a simple invitation, a boyfriend or girlfriend’s persistent pleading, or the prodding of a group of people. We are told that there are snares set out by the devil to lead Christians into sin. This is why Peter says, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith...” (1 Peter 5:8-9a). We must not close our eyes because we do not want to see the sin in which other would lead us.

It is not wrong to have friends and associations who are not Christians; that is really necessary because of the world in which we live. But we need to think hard about the type of people we choose to be our closest associations.

-via *The Gospel Nourisher*, Trussville, Alabama.



They Kept Right On!

Dan S. Shipley

For the second time the apostles had been imprisoned and given strict orders not to do further teaching in the name of Jesus (Acts 5:28). Now, after their third arrest and facing almost sure prospects of death, the highly regarded Gamaliel intervenes in their behalf, resulting in their release with a beating and a warning to “speak no more in the name of Jesus”. The remarkable response of these dedi-

cated men is seen in the last two verses of Acts 5. Not only did they rejoice in being considered worthy to suffer for His name, but “every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ” (NASV).

That “they kept right on” speaks volumes in regard to the faith and character of these Godly men - and it shows us why Jerusalem (v.28) and the whole Roman empire (Colossians 1:23) had come to be filled with the gospel message in a relatively short time. And neither was such dedication limited to just these apostles. In Acts 2 we read of how other saints also kept right on “in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers” (v.42). Later, when scattered abroad because of the great persecution against the church, they still kept right on “preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). In persecution, in poverty; in prison, in palaces; in public, in private; in season and out, let it ever be said to their credit, they kept right on teaching the gospel. Without benefit of newspaper, radio or television; without auto or airplane; even without comfortable meeting places in good locations, they kept right on! For a time many of the young churches were without elders and “full-time” preachers, but you know what? They just kept right on! Sure, they had their “church” problems. They had squabbles, false teachers, divisions, weak and sinful brethren to be reckoned with. So they reckoned; no doubt some quit. But the faithful just kept right on anyway.

The pressing need of our day is for saints like that - men and women of such faith and character as to keep right on serving God without having to be begged and pampered; men and women concerned enough about lost souls to keep right on trying to help save them. Our need is for the abiding sense of urgency that motivated our first century brethren - the kind that made Paul say, “I press on”. Without it, we’re not likely to fill even the local church with the teaching of Christ, much less our neighbor-

hoods and cities. What a tragedy that so many who profess allegiance to such an urgent cause would do so little to advance it - or would give up at the slightest obstacle or discouragement! - and this in the midst of the most favorable circumstances possible. Oh we of little faith! Just think of the amazing results possible if every member in every local church would begin and just keep on doing all he knows to do for the Lord (as per 1 Corinthians 15:58)! Why, we may just keep on having good results, like in the first century. Why not resolve to put away our intermittent and sputtering efforts of the past, realizing what we could do - and then, just keep right on doing it?

- via *Weatherly Heights Bulletin*; Huntsville, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Jamie Mosley’s father, Andy McConnell*, is at home following his heart surgery and is doing well... *Janice Glass* has been sick this week and has not been able to be at services... *Cindy Pressnell* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Samuel and Molly Kate Phillips* have both been sick this past week and were not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Jack Tucker* is not able to be out as much as he would like ... *Larry Johnson* is confined at home ... *Jeremy Pounders’ mother, Judy Pounders*, found that there was nothing they could do to help her difficulties ... *Freda McConnell’s sister, Leta Zadigan*, has ended her cancer treatments... *Myrtie Williams* is at home and 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: *The Chancellors: Kevin,*

Laurie, & Abbygail are back home after being out of town last weekend... **The Butlers:** *Aric and Andrea* are in Florida visiting with Aric's mother... **The Parkers:** *Steve, Melissa, Jackson, Caroline and Keaton* have been out of town on vacation this past week... I am away this week in Franklin, Tennessee preaching in a gospel meeting for the *Parkway church*.

PREACHING TODAY: In my absence today, **Kevin Chancellor** will be preaching this morning and **Mark McIntyre** will be preaching this evening. **Rocky Rose** will be teaching my class while I am away. I appreciate these men and others that fill in for me when I am away.

BAPTISMS: We rejoiced late Sunday night when **Hunter Cox** expressed his desire and was baptized into Christ. Last night, **Ashley Thomas** expressed her desire and was baptized into Christ. I appreciate the good hearts and desire to please the Lord that Ashley & Hunter have demonstrated this past week. We are blessed to have many young people with good hearts and the desire to please God. May the Lord bless them with many years to serve.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The **New Hope church** at Cross Key in Limestone county will be engaged in a gospel meeting this week with **Tim Sutton of Lacey's Springs** preaching. They will have a singing today at 2:30 p.m. and afternoon service 4:00. Services will be Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m.... The **Eastside church** in Scottsboro will be engaged in a meeting through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. They will have different speakers as follows: *Sunday morning – Greg Chandler; Sunday evening – Jeff Arher; Monday – Gary Patton; Tuesday – Bobby Graham; Wednesday – Norm Webb, Sr.; Thursday – Matt Henneche; Friday – Carrol Sutton.*

THE RECORD: *Attendance for week of July 16th*

Sunday: Bible Classes 118
 Morning Worship 129
 Evening Worship 97
Wednesday: Bible Classes 86

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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