

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 30th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Bible Reading (Exo. 36:1-7)
..... Steve Parker
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
Presiding Michael Clemmons
Assisting Eddie J. Hammond
Serving Michael Word
..... Trent Thornton
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Rodney McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Exo. 36:8-19)
..... Rocky Rose
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper
..... Michael Clemmons
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Closing Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass

Volume XIII

July 30, 2006

No. 31

Draw Near To God

Edwin L. Crozier

James 4:8 says, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." As we grow in Christ, we should be getting closer and closer to God.

We draw near to God in two ways. We must first cleanse our hands. That is, we must remove sin from our actions. As 2 Peter 1:5-8 demonstrates, we must grow in virtue.

At the same time, we must purify our hearts. The word "double-minded" helps us understand what James meant. Our hearts can be divided like the people to whom Elijah spoke on Mt. Carmel when he said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow Him" (1 Kings 18:21). We must not hesitate between two opinions, but devote our hearts to God fully. As Jesus taught, we must love God "with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37).

Clearly this is a growth process. But something has been troubling me lately. As I talk with more and more Christians, I am amazed at how many claim to be growing and yet they do not seem to be drawing near to God.

Perhaps you have noticed it too. How many Christians have grown to learn that drinking alcohol is really ok, so long as we don't get too plastered? How many have discovered that the coveting of a friendly wager or a cheap lottery ticket is really no problem? How many have become enlightened, learning that movies with nudity are ok so long as they are not gratuitous and we try hard not to lust?

How many Christian parents have informed us that holding a woman or man who is not your spouse close to your body and moving sensuously to music is fine as long as it is the high school prom?

How does any of this draw us closer to God? All this concerns me. After all, in the same context that James said to draw near to God, he wrote, “You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (James 4:4).

Regrettably, it seems that too many Christians are growing too friendly with the world and worldly things. They have the idea that if we say these actions are righteous we make Christianity more attractive to those who are already doing these things in the world. The reality is, if we attract people to this kind of Christianity, we have not helped them at all. Further, we will make ourselves God’s enemies.

Let us remember James’s advice. We must draw near to God by cleansing our hands and purifying our hearts. When we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. As you grow, to whom are you drawing near?

~via *The Franklin Bulletin*, Franklin, Tennessee.



The Lesser of Two Evils

Al Diestelkamp

When it comes to behavior, one should never allow himself to be put into positions where he chooses between two evils. There may be situations wherein we think we must make such choices, but in reality there are always other

options which we ignore because they may include discomfort, or even hardship.

We’re dwelling in an ungodly world that excuses some sins, either because they are commonplace, or because they are viewed as harmless. The so-called “white lie” has long been considered acceptable in society. In recent times the world has developed a long list of what is called “victimless” crimes and sins.

Most Christians recognize this as a trap laid by Satan, and understand that we cannot afford to fall into it by excusing any sin. The Bible clearly reveals that one will not enter into eternal life with any unforgiven sin, be it murder or that “little white lie” (Revelation 21:27).

Having said that, let me challenge a claim frequently made in Bible classes and sermons that “sin is sin, so one sin is as great as another.” The Bible doesn’t teach that. In fact, it teaches just the opposite.

When God was about to bring a flood on the earth, it was because “the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth” (Genesis 6:5). Every man that had lived up to that point had sinned, but the sin became so great that God decided to start over, saving eight sinners whose sins were evidently not as grievous as the rest of mankind.

The story of Sodom and Gomorrah, shows that God considers some sins worse than others. In explaining His reason for destroying those cities God told Abraham it was “because their sin is very grave” (Genesis 18:20). He spared other cities populated with sinners, but whose sins were not as grave.

Whenever I hear someone say that there are no degrees of sin, or all sins are the same, I wonder if they realize they are contradicting Jesus who said to Pilate, “the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin” (John 19:11). Obviously, Jesus was not excusing Pilate’s sin, but He clearly placed greater blame on others.

Though I think I've made it pretty clear that the "lesser" sins cannot be ignored just because they are not as "great" as others, let me make it even clearer. Any sin, great or small, has the potential of destroying one's soul. Conversely, any sin, great or small, can be remitted by the blood of Christ if the sinner will comply with the gospel of the grace of God.

- via *Think*; Cortland, Illinois.



How Is Your Giving?

Bobby L. Graham

How easy it is to give as a matter of routine, without really examining our action from the standpoint of what our giving says about our hearts.

Stop and think of your contribution. What does it say about you? Jesus once observed, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21) The person who lays his treasure up in a business venture will be most concerned about that business; the philanthropist who spends his fortune in some charitable cause has his heart in that effort. Is it not also just as true that the child of God who uses the material wealth given him by the Lord in the cause of the Lord will be most interested in the things of God?

Proper teaching on giving of our means will not omit what the Bible says about the heart in giving. Notice the passages below:

"And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God" (2 Corinthians 8:5).

"For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath,

not according to that he hath not" (2 Corinthians 8:12).

"Every man, according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Did you notice the emphasis upon *first giving self*, including the mind or heart, to the Lord? After that, the *willing* mind is stressed. The willing mind then *purposes* to give *cheerfully*, making plans to part with a generous share of the abundance given by God.

How closely does this picture your heart and your contribution? Have you really given yourself to the Lord? Have you learned to deny self, thus taking the first step toward following Christ (Mathew 16:24)?

If you have not, then unwillingness to purpose and to give cheerfully (happily or gladly) is understandable. Your present need is to learn selfdenial, to give self over to the will of God, to bring every thought into subjection to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

-via *Gospel Guide*; Vol. 34 No. 9; September 2002

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Amber Hammond* has sick sick this past week, but is doing some better...*Mattie Blanche Word* is at home and is not doing well at all...*Corey Word* had some tests done on Tuesday and Wednesday in Huntsville. The word on the MRI that was done is good ... *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 ... *Myrtie Williams* is at home and unable to be out ... *Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette ... *Tisha Thomas' grand-*

mother, Nellie Hunter, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

ELDERS/DEACONS MEETING: The elders have scheduled an elders/deacons meeting for next Sunday afternoon at 4:30p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY: Next Sunday evening, August 6th, *Drew Jones*, the young preacher working along with *Mark White* and the *College View church* will be here to preach for us. I look forward to hearing Drew and I know that all of you will enjoy getting to know and hear him.

FRANKLIN, TENN. MEETING: It was my privilege to be with the *Parkway church* in Franklin, Tennessee this past week in a gospel meeting. The meeting went very well and it was good to see some brethren in that area. The church at Parkway has two men that serve as elders and *Franklin Williams* is the preacher there. I appreciate *Kevin Chancellor* and *Mark McIntyre* for preaching for me last week and *Rocky Rose* for teaching my class.

SUMMER/FALL QUARTER: This morning we are beginning our Summer/Fall quarter in our Bible classes. During this quarter, all of the adults will be meeting in the auditorium on Wednesday evening for a study of the first 12 chapters of Acts taught by *Bill Hall*. On Sunday morning, we will continue our study on "*The New Testament Church*" and the Ladies will meet to finish their study "*She Hath Done What She Could*" I appreciate the teachers who taught this past quarter and the work they did, and I know that the teachers for this quarter have diligently prepared for their classes. If you are not attending our periods of Bible study, why not start now.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of July 23rd
Sunday:

Bible Classes 106
Morning Worship 125
Evening Worship 96

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 107

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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