

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, August 13th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Exo. 37:20-29)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer
..... Larry White

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Kevin Chancellor
Lord's Supper
Presiding Scottie Goode
Assisting Andrew Gatlin
Serving Tyler Cox
..... Curtis Mosley
..... Rodney McCrary
..... Jonathan Keenon
Closing Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Exo. 38:1-8)
..... Rocky Rose
Prayer
..... Claus Martel
Lord's Supper
..... Scottie Goode
..... Andrew Gatlin
Closing Prayer
..... Steve Parker

Volume XIII

August 13, 2006

No. 33

Not Our Workmanship, But His

Bill Hall

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

When one is baptized he becomes a new creation, but he is not the creation of any man. He is the workmanship of God.

He is not the workmanship of the person who converted him – not primarily, anyway. Man can teach, influence, persuade, and baptize; but only God can cleanse, forgive, raise a person to sit with Christ in the heavenly places, and give him new life. He is God’s creation – God’s workmanship. Just as surely as no man could create an “Adam,” just that surely no man can create a new creature in Christ.

Neither is one self-made. In Christ, one does not lift himself “by his own bootstraps.” Christianity is not a “do-it-yourself religion” – not in the fullest sense. One does not effect his own salvation through his own merit. Rather, in obedience to the gospel and faithfulness as a Christian, he places himself as clay in God’s hand, to become the work of the divine Potter, who molds, shapes, and perfects him that he might be fashioned in the image of His Son.

He is the workmanship of God because his salvation is “by grace...through faith,” “the gift of” God (Ephesians 2:8-9). If one’s salvation were of meritorious works, he would not be the workmanship of God. This is the primary thrust of the passage.

The workmanship of God exists as a monument to the

greatness of the Potter; as a beautiful painting is a monument to an artist, so a mature and perfected Christian is a monument to the marvelous power of God. Such a person is a product of God's grace and exists for "the praise of His glory" (Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14; 3:14-19). That God could take a Peter, a John, a Saul of Tarsus, an Aquila, a Priscilla, a John Mark, and mold him or her into the lovely vessel each became is a manifestation of His greatness. That He could do the same for people this writer has known and observed equally manifests His greatness. That He can and will do the same for me if I will but submit myself to His care in humble obedience, trust, and prayer is the greatest marvel of all.

The workmanship of God must be handled with care. Such a person is special, precious, priceless to God. As one is cautious in handling a family heirloom or rare piece of pottery fashioned by the hands of a master, so we must be cautious in our treatment of that creation which is the work of God. "Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food," Paul warned the Romans (Romans 14:20). That person toward whose tender conscience you are showing little regard or whose soul you are placing in jeopardy is the work of God. Love that person. Appreciate him. Be tender toward him. Recognize his value. Handle with care!

The workmanship of God must never be content until it is brought to perfection. "Finish then thy new creation," Charles Wesley wrote in his familiar hymn, "Love Divine." In keeping with this, Paul could express his confidence in the Philippian Christians, "That He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6-7). Only those who remain in the Potter's hands until brought to completion and perfection become vessels of honor. All others become marred and fit only for destruction (2 Timothy 2:19-21).

Let no man, then, boast of himself. Self-righteousness has no place in the heart of a

Christian. If any man boast, "let him glory in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:31) and "in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Galatians 6:14). We are His workmanship.

~ via *Meditate On These Things*; Woodlawn, New York.



Look Out For The Hook!

Allen Dvorak

I enjoy fishing. Just being close to a river or lake can make my reel hand twitch. But I stand in awe of those fishermen whose tackle boxes look like a division of the Smithsonian Institute. They are constantly in search of the best temptation for their favorite fish, the bait with the right motion, smell, colors and size. As one whose tackle box usually is a jumbled repository of rusted hooks, small bits of dried worms, broken reel parts, itinerant fishing weights and sundry pieces of fishing line of various weights, I admire the angler who, at a moment's notice, can lay his hand upon the exact lure for the current time of day, depth of water and expected prey.

Satan is an accomplished angler. He is a tempter (see Matthew 4:3) and James explains how temptation leads to sin. He writes, "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (James 1:14-15). Satan makes use of our own desires to tempt us, dangling the bait of anticipated pleasure in front of us. We sin when we yield to the temptation; we "take the bait" and the body acts to fulfill our sinful desires. Satan reels us in. Many times I have fished without success. Sometimes I knew that fish were present, but I couldn't find the right bait or the right presentation of it.

Nothing I cast before them was of particular appeal and so we ate beef instead of fish at the next meal. Satan understands that not all of us are tempted by the exact same bait. For some, physical pleasures (alcohol, illicit drugs, fornication, i.e., the lust of the flesh) are the lure which captures the attention. For others, fame or power is the bait that entices (the pride of life; see 1 John 2:16). Understanding, however, the relationship between our own desires, temptation and sin is invaluable in the battle against temptation. The fish that won't bite doesn't get caught. The person who guards his thoughts and controls his desires may be tempted, but he avoids sin.

The manufacturers of lures understand that the most effective lure closely resembles the real thing, the customary, savory and harmless food of the fish. Satan's baits employ similar deception. Have you noticed that sin frequently seems so good, promising pleasure and satisfaction? It is only after we have seized the bait that we realize that we have been taken captive. What fish enjoys the feel of the hook?

Be careful; Satan is a tireless angler. He is apparently not discouraged if he doesn't catch me on the first cast. He changes baits. Sometimes he attempts to wear down my resistance by repeated presentations of the same bait. The good news is that, despite his fishing ability, the Scriptures assure me that I can win against temptation (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9).

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

Gospel Meeting

September 24-28

Bill Hall, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

Are You Committed?

Michael W. McLemore

Folks need to fully understand that in becoming a member of God's church, in becoming a Christian, they are assuming a definite obligation. It is a lifetime commitment. As a Christian one's thinking is transformed. Once a child of God, a man or woman's speech is restyled. In behavior, the Christian is reborn. Paul said of this process of growth and development, "Therefore if any men be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Christian is a new creature – a new person. It is by the Gospel that we are transformed into the image of Christ.

Obedying the Gospel is not something that one does just once a in a lifetime. There is no road of ease from then on. Obeying the Gospel is the mere beginning of a life long commitment. Christianity is a way of life, not a once a week, twice a week, or even a three time a week affair. It's a path that must be traveled until death. The Lord warned the brethren at Smyrna, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life (Revelation 2:10).

"Let us hold fast our profession," the Hebrew writer exclaimed (Hebrews 4:14). "Let us go on unto perfection" (Hebrews 6:1). The Lord concluded, "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27). Are you committed for life?

-via *West End Way*; Richmond, Virginia.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Sam Noles* had stints implanted in his right leg on Friday in Florence and is at his granddaughter's house for a few days...*Doris Newton's brother, Preston Dean*, is in the

ECM hospital in Florence...*Mrytie Williams* is in the Glenwood Rehabilitation in Florence...*Jimmie Lovell* is to have a stress test done on Monday ...*Virginia Lovell* has been sick with kidney stones and is to go back to the doctor on Tuesday ...*Carson Crunk* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Corey Word* was 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 ... *Larry Johnson* is confined at home ...*Faye Hammond* is 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.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Eastside church* in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. *Rick Lanning of New Hope, Minnesota* will be the speaker.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight is the night for communication group group two to meet. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Halls: Bill and Charlotte* are in Salem, Illinois where Bill is beginning a meeting today.

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

THE RECORD: *Attendance for week of Aug. 6th Sunday:*

Bible Classes 105
 Morning Worship 122
 Evening Worship 100

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 101

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
 Brian Word (931) 565-3799

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