

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, February 4th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Lev. 20:1-9)
..... Rocky Rose
Prayer
..... Jonathan Keenon

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry White
Assisting Phil Pressnell
Serving Aric Butler
..... Curtis Mosley
..... Hunter Cox
..... Brad Hammond
Closing Prayer
..... Kevin Chancellor

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Lev. 20:10-21)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Steve Parker
Lord's Supper
..... Larry White
..... Phil Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Word

Volume XIV

February 4, 2007

No. 5

Tempted and Tried

Bubba Garner

We are assured that trials will come. “All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12). There is no loophole or exemption clause; there is no way around it. In fact, Peter says not to be surprised when they come upon us, “as though some strange thing were happening” (1 Peter 4:12). And James prepares us not for “if” they happen, but “when” (James 1:2). Seeing that we cannot escape these “various” trials, coming in different shapes and sizes, often from unexpected sources, what can we do about them?

Cheer up. What does James say to do? “Count it all joy” (James 1:2). How does Peter tell us to respond? “Keep on rejoicing” (1 Peter 4:12). Jesus Himself preached in the Sermon on the Mount that when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you, “rejoice and be glad” (Matthew 5:11-12). Do you see a pattern developing here? If you want to end with joy, you have to begin with joy.

Yet, we would much rather “count it all misery” or “keep on complaining” or “pout and be angry.” We want people to know when we’re suffering and how much we’re suffering. We find greater comfort in feeling sorry for ourselves than in finding ways to rebound and rejoice.

We must start seeing things from God’s perspective instead of our own limited, selfish view. Only then, will our eyes be opened to a whole new world. Only then, can we see Him on His throne, watching over us and causing us to rejoice. In prosperity and in adversity.

Look farther along. The testing of our faith “produces

endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” (James 1:3-4). An athlete endures the rigors of training because he knows it will make him stronger for the contest. We must persevere through our fiery trials knowing that we will emerge sharper and more durable on the other side.

God is interested in making His people better. Trials and tests are just one way He can accomplish that. He knows that they give us confidence and boldness for future trials. He knows that they help us become mature, “perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” He knows that a faith tested becomes a faith perfected. Bad things may happen to good people. But with the right attitude and proper perspective, they can make good people even better people.

Let the Lord help. “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God” (James 1:5). There are times to pray for the trial to be removed. But there are also times to pray for wisdom to endure it. Wisdom will help us see the end result, even when it’s still far way. Wisdom will help us make good choices in the midst of adversity. Wisdom will help us maintain our faith in God though we be in the most desperate of circumstances.

God gives to all generously. He will not only fill your cup, He will cause it to overflow. Pray for wisdom. Then use it.

“Cheer up, my brother. Live in the sunshine. We’ll understand it all by-and-by.”

~via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

I've Got Mine

Dale Smelser

We had an interesting response from one of our online students. The lesson was from Acts 19. Paul there is in Ephesus, where there was a temple of the goddess Diana. Paul had preached against idolatry and his message had clearly been heard: “There are no gods that are made with hands.” This message was offensive to a man named Demetrius. He was a silversmith and made silver shrines of Diana. He thus called together his fellow craftsmen and warned, “Not only is there danger that this our trade come into disrepute; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana be made of no account.”

The question the student was answering was: “What was the first concern Demetrius addressed, and what was second (v. 27)?” Her answer was, “He was fearful of the demise of his trade (profession - income) and that the Temple of Artemis (or Diana) would count for nothing. It was Money - livelihood first, then religion. That is familiar territory. I can’t come to church because I have to work - I have so many bills...I can’t come to Bible study at night because I work a second job...I can’t say anything on my job about being a believer in Christ; they won’t like me anymore.”

First, a caveat or two. A second job is not necessarily selfishness. Nor is paying one’s bills a bad thing. But a second job which keeps me from more active service is wrong if motivated by greed. That is covetousness, and Paul calls it idolatry (Colossians 3:5). And unresponsibly acquiring more bills than one can pay is carnal materialism. But our student’s observations were apt.

For many, their personal carnal concerns come before everything else. Ultimately that is the problem with democracies. People sharing a desire can combine to vote themselves privilege. And the more privilege people vote themselves,

the more it costs others to supply those privileges. Then the burden brings rebellion or collapse. But the thinking is, as long as I get mine, I do not care what is best for the nation overall. When principled concern for the nation is lost, and individual concerns take precedence, the nation's days are numbered. Demetrius was afflicted with a common malady: My prosperity first.

It is easy for this to be done in religion also. Churches may be well peopled and well financed. They look first to material trappings such as the building. Then they look to making things as comfortable and impressive as possible. Of course, there is nothing wrong with having a building. Nor is it wrong for it to be comfortable. But when those things take precedence over the spiritual, we share Demetrius' malady. Paul urged gentile churches to come to the relief of Jews in Jerusalem. The churches of Macedonia responded liberally, though they themselves were in deep poverty (2 Corinthians 8:2). The Corinthians drug their feet and Paul admonished them, "Your abundance being at this present time a supply for their want" (2 Corinthians 8:14). It is a selfish church that secures everything for itself first, before giving thought to brethren elsewhere in desperate circumstances.

Paul's principle was used by Lenin to foster Dialectic Communism: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need." Of course this was a sham. Those with much did not share with those who needed. It was all confiscated and put in a pile and controlled by those in authority, who took more than others. As Orwell observed, in that system some were more equal than others.

One of the lessons of the 20th Century is that selfish thinking is a disastrous way of life. The lesson comes from Nazi Germany. "The Nazi came for the communists. I said nothing for I was not a communist. They came for the Jews and I said nothing for I was not a Jew. They

came for the Catholics, again I said nothing for I was not a Catholic. They came for the Gypsies and once again I said nothing, I was not a Gypsy. Then they came for me, no one said anything, there was no one left to speak." Demetrius should have sought truth, not just to secure his carnal well being.

-via *Wildercroft Bulletin*; Rivedale, Maryland.



Gospel Meeting

March 25-30, 2007

(Sunday – Friday)

Mark W. White, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Brooke Blakely* continues to be doing better, but is not able to get out yet... *Jonathan Keenon's father, Glen Keenon*, had a stint inserted on Friday afternoon for a blockage in his heart ...*Larry & Dyanne Johnson's grandson, Bowen Johnson*, had surgery on his aorta on Friday in Birmingham at UAB... *James McConnell father, Albert McConnell*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence. He had surgery to remove part of his colon on Thursday after-

noon... **Rodney McCrary's brother, Terry McCrary**, has been in the Athens-Limestone hospital in ICU this week... **Monroe Pressnell** continues his treatments for his cancer... **Shelia Goode and Lou Ann Phillips' brother-in-law, Michael Olive**, is continuing his radiation treatments ... **Myrtie Williams** is at home and not able to be out ... **Jack Tucker** is not able to be out ... **Faye Hammond** is at home ... **Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathies to **Jerry Dickey and all the family**, in the passing of Jerry's grandmother, **Ellen Prince**. She was buried last Saturday... Also we want to extend our sympathy to **Larry Johnson and all the family**, in the passing of Larry's brother, **John Johnson**. He was buried last Saturday... Also, we extend our sympathy to **Tisha Thomas and all the family**, in the passing of Tisha's grandmother, **Nellie Hunter**. She was buried on Thursday.

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

OUT OF TOWN: The Coxes: Tyler and Hunter are visiting with their grandparents today. **Kerry and I** are in Florida for the week attending the Florida College lectureship.

PREACHING TODAY: Due to me being out of town to attend the Florida College lectures, **Kevin Chancellor** will be preaching this morning and **Mark White** will be preaching this evening. I know that you will enjoy hearing them both. I appreciate their willingness to fill in for me while I am away.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of Jan. 28th

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 107
- Morning Worship 132
- Evening Worship 85

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 83

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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