

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.

Volume XIV

February 18, 2007

No. 7

Anderson church of Christ
5900 Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

Visit Us On The Web
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Men Priviledged To Serve:
Sunday, February 18th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Lev. 21:1-9)
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader Phil Pressnell
Prayer Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
Presiding Kevin Chancellor
Assisting Brian Word
Serving Zack Rogers
..... Michael Word
..... Curtis Mosley
..... Rodney McCrary
Closing Prayer James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Lev. 21:10-15)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer Brad Hammond
Lord's Supper
..... Kevin Chancellor
..... Brian Word
Closing Prayer Ray Tucker

Selling Out For Nothing

Allen Dvorak

Judas Iscariot, wayward disciple of the Christ, is a study in sadness. He squandered such a tremendous opportunity when he betrayed his Master (Matthew 26:14-16). He gave up his position as an apostle, an ambassador of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-20), and esteemed eternal life to be of no value when he conspired with the Jewish leaders to deliver Jesus into their hands. The really sad aspect of that whole situation is that he sold out for practically nothing - thirty pieces of silver!

What would it take for you to abandon your principles? How much money would have to be involved? What would you have to be offered in order to give up your moral convictions and commit wrong? It has been said that everyone has his price, i.e., every person can be seduced by evil if the compensation is adequate.

I don't believe that. Such a view suggests that everyone who serves God does so only until a "better offer" comes along. I freely grant that many people operate on that principle, but not all men. Some people hold out for more, others surrender their values for practically nothing, but many people do have their price. The rest hold certain moral principles for no other reason than that God says it is right and they are not "for sale" at any price!

For some, the big economic score is the price. The movie plot in which someone finds a suitcase full of money and struggles with what to do with it doesn't frequently happen. However, many people are willing to put aside their responsibility to family if the prospect of a big pay raise requires it. The big profits that result from shady business deals sing their siren song to others.

For others, a job that offers better benefits or more opportunity for advancement is worth sacrificing some moral scruples. The perks that come with some jobs are considered worth the guilt of having to lie to the occasional customer.

The price to forsake moral principles is not always money. Sometimes inclusion in some social group requires that one adopt certain prejudices or commit crimes. Gangs often work on this principle. The desire to "belong" is so strong that some are willing to do practically anything, even commit violence, to become a fellow. Others will set aside their principles at the prospect of momentary sexual pleasure.

Giving up our moral principles for temporal gain or pleasure is always unfortunate, but it is sad to see how little some people value their morality. They "sell out" for practically nothing! Knowing this, the tempter begins the negotiations at the lowest price and increases the ante until another soul folds for momentary profit.

The truth is that whatever a man can gain in this world by sacrificing his moral principles amounts to nothing in comparison with the inheritance that God promises to those who serve Him (Matthew 16:26). Don't sell out for nothing when God offers you so much!

-via *News & Notes*; Madison, Alabama.

Noah's Boys & Lot's Girls

Russ Bowman

It would have been nice if God had offered a detailed account of the rearing of some godly man like David or John the Baptist. Did Jesse approve of David's music? Did Zechariah set a curfew? However, God didn't record such a comprehensive account because I'm not raising David or John. I'm raising Haley (and beginning in August. The Lord willing, her sibling).

Consider two families – Noah's (Genesis 5:32-10:32) and Lots (Genesis 19:1-38). Interestingly, there are a number of similarities. Both dwelt in ungodly environments. Both had righteous men at their head. God delivered both from cataclysmic events. Yet Noah's boys and Lot's girls appear far dissimilar in the end.

Spiritual wisdom is important. In Genesis, Lot focuses upon the cities of the plain of Jordan. The citizens of Sodom were "exceedingly" wicked in God's eyes, and Lot was personally appalled at their lawlessness (2 Peter 2:7ff). Yet he took his wife and children into such a godless place simply because it was a good business move. He was motivated more by temporal wisdom than by spiritual concern. Some of his daughters died in Sodom Genesis 19:14-15); his wife died looking back (Genesis 19:26); his two surviving daughters sacrificed their virginity to and bore children by their father after they enticed him to drunkenness (Genesis 19:30ff). What happens to this family had Lot been more spiritual in his choices?

Active faith makes an impact. Noah spent years proclaiming righteousness and preparing to save his family from an event absolutely unimaginable (Genesis 7:11). His boys saw a father who trusted God so completely that he built an incredible boat to receive an unbelievable menagerie. Imagine the ridicule and scorn they must have endured. Yet Noah was resolute

Gospel Meeting

March 25-30, 2007

(Sunday – Friday)

Mark W. White, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

and his faith must have inspired some trust in young Shem, Ham, and Japheth, for God delivered the boys and their wives as well. Contrast Noah's active faith with Lot's fear and hesitation. Granted, Lot was righteous (2 Peter 2:7ff) but he gravitated repeatedly toward men (Genesis 13:12; 14:12; 19:20ff), attempted to appease the Sodomites with his virgin daughters, hesitated to leave Sodom, and begged God not to send him to the mountains "*lest some evil take me, and I die*" (Genesis 19:19). God delivered him, yet his faith was far from monumental. It is little wonder that his wife and daughters did not appear to share his abhorrence of ungodliness, and that his sons-in-law ridiculed him. We must do more than simply despise evil.

Parents must guard their character constantly. Lot's girls seem to have been exposed to a pattern of inconsistency. How would you feel if your father offered you to a mob of sexual perverts? His sons-in-law considered his warnings a joke. He hesitated to leave. He couldn't stop his wife from looking back. He was afraid of the mountains though God had delivered him. He allowed himself to become drunken before his girls.

Perhaps their incest and sinful reasoning shouldn't surprise us. But Ham, in Genesis 9:18ff, manifests contempt and disregard for Noah in response to one mistake. No doubt Ham already harbored some dishonor for his father, yet Noah's intemperance offers the opportunity for him to display his irreverence and mockery. Perhaps Ham was looking for inconsistency in his father, but Noah had apparently offered no ground for such criticism - until now. Parents, we must guard our character constantly. Our kids are watching.

A child eventually chooses his own character. It's difficult to tell whether Noah's boys, before the flood, were righteous like their father, Perhaps God saved them for Noah's sake, though I believe otherwise. Shem and Japheth appear to

imitate their father's godliness in their reverence in Genesis 9:18f. Ham is another story. He is over 100 years old, with at least four boys of his own when he revels in his father's sin. His character is now his own to pursue, and he pursues ungodliness on this occasion. Perhaps this is an indication of his moral fabric as a grown man. Though Noah was wrong in his drunkenness, Ham was old enough now to choose his own path. Noah had provided a godly example for his boys. "God saved my Dad from the flood. Who else could make such a claim? But as with Noah and Ham, parents can only provide their children the foundation of faith, instruction, evidence, examples, and admonition. There are no guarantees that they will trust God. We can't give them our faith. How frustrating! Yet my little girl needs to love God by her choice, not by mine.

There are other lessons here and elsewhere. God knows that parents need help with their children and that children need help from their parents. Let's work hard to offer our boys and girls every opportunity to survive this world. We owe it to them. We owe it to our folks. We owe it to God.

-via *Christianity Magazine*; June 1998, Vol. 15 No.6.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Jonathan Keenon's father, Glen Keenon*, is now home after spending a few days in the Decatur General Hospital in Decatur ... *Sadie McIntyre* has been sick this past week and has been unable to be at services... *Ella Wallen* has been sick this past week ... *Lawinda Keenon* was able to be at Bible study Wednesday

night after being sick last week... *Shelia Goode and Lou Ann Phillips' brother-in-law, Michael Olive*, has finished his 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.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *College View church* in Florence will have *Ed Harrell* with them beginning Friday night and continuing through Sunday. The topic will be "Building New Testament Churches".

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: Tonight will be the time for our Children's Bible Drill to meet at 5:30. I hope that all of our children will be able to be here and as many as can, come at 5:30 to encourage our young ones.

SONG SERVICE: Tonight will be the time for our regular scheduled song service. *Jerry Dickey* will be directing the service. I hope that everyone will make their plans to be present.

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

OUT OF TOWN: *The Hammonds: Eddie and Willodean* are in Florida on vacation.

ELDERS MEETING: The elders will be meeting this afternoon at 4:00.

THE RECORD: *Attendance – Week of Feb. 11th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 91
Morning Worship 113
Evening Worship 83

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 94

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

Evangelist & Editor

David A. Cox (256) 247-1049
Office-(256) 247-5539
E-mail address: daco@hiwaay.net

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P.O. Box 66
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