

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

March 11, 2007

No.10

**Anderson
church of Christ**
5900 Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

Visit Us On The Web
Anderson-church.org

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 11th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Lev. 24:1-9)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jerry Dickey
Assisting Steve Parker
Serving Aric Butler
..... Mark McCrary
..... Eddie Hammond
..... Curtis Mosley
Closing Prayer
..... Phil Pressnell

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Lev. 24:10-16)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Jonathan Keenon
Lord's Supper
..... Jerry Dickey
..... Steve Parker
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

The Faith of Abraham

David A. Cox

Men are known in history for the outstanding traits of character and the accomplishments that they attained during their lifetime. In Hebrews 11:17 we read, "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac." Abraham is a man that is known for his faith. He is not known for his faith because of perfection, but the greatness of Abraham's faith is seen in the fact that he trusted in the promises of God faithfully for years while waiting for them.

Abraham's faith was tested on different occasions. First, God told Abraham to leave his home, Ur of the Chaldees, and go to a land that God would show him (Genesis 12:1). Because of his faith in the promise of God and trusting that God would take care of him, Abraham left his family and lived among the Canaanites.

Another test of faith was in the promise that God, through Abraham's descendants, would make a great nation. There was twenty-five years from the time that the promise was made until there was a son born to Abraham and Sarah. This son was Issac and he was the one that God told Abraham to "take thine son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest" to offer as a sacrifice (Genesis 22:2). This is the incident that Hebrew writer recalls saying Abraham "was tried."

Faith In God Came Before Natural Reaction

Can you imagine what emotion must have been stirred within Abraham as he heard this command from God? The sacrificing of human flesh upon the altar would be repugnant to anyone, but the sacrificing of one's own son upon the altar would be much more so. However, in Genesis 22, we see Abraham following through with the command of God as he takes a knife to slay his son. Here we see Abraham's faith in God triumphing over natural reaction.

The natural reaction would be to say, “Surely God doesn’t want me to do that” or “Surely, I can do something else and God will be pleased.” Naturally this command from God seemed contrary to the promises God made to Abraham. But the faith of Abraham was such that he did not ask any questions and he did not make any arguments to delay or avoid obeying the command the Lord had given to him. We must understand, as Abraham did, that it matters not what we might naturally think about the commands of God. If God has commanded us to do something, then He will be pleased with us only when we obey.

Faith Is Demonstrated By His Works

In Romans 4, Paul mentions the faith of Abraham as not being weak, but strong. His faith caused him not to stagger at the promise of God, but he was fully persuaded. Paul is emphasizing faith as the condition of Abraham’s justification, but we must understand that the faith was proved by the works of obedience to God. The idea of Abraham being justified by works is set forth by James in James 2. Some believe that Paul and James held contrary views concerning justification. But we must understand that Paul and James were guided by the same Holy Spirit as they penned their epistles so there is no way that their views could be contrary to the other. Paul and James are not contrary to one another, but are complementary. Concerning the faith of Abraham, James says, “was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (James 2:21-24). Before faith is perfected, it must be tried or tested and that requires some kind of action. The action done must be the action that has been ordained of God. It was the action (the works) of obedience to the command of God and the faith in God that caused Abraham to prove or complete his faith. Earlier James said

that “faith without works, is dead, being alone” (James 2:17). Abraham’s faith was not a dead faith, but a strong faith (Romans 4:20).

May each one of us have the kind of faith that Abraham had in his lifelong pilgrimage awaiting the promise. May we heed the teachings of the word of God, obeying them without delay and without applying our personal thoughts. Simply do what God teaches in His word. As we do this, we will be like Abraham. By accepting God’s word as true, giving up our own desires and doing what God tells us to, we will gain a city whose builder and maker is God (Hebrews 11:10).



Raising The Dead

Allen Dvorak

I am not a fan of the macabre genre in Hollywood entertainment. It appears to me, however, that nearly all “terror” flicks deal with death, an intimation that death is one of man’s greatest fears. A favorite theme of such films is the resurrection of dead people. They rise from the grave, with movements approximating life, but still showing the vestiges of the corruption which is characteristic of death.

Some of Jesus’ comments about life and death must have seemed strange or even bizarre to many who heard His teaching. John records that Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live” (John 5:25). Such a statement, without further explanation, might call up images of dead people with ears cocked to hear and

doing the mummy shuffle. The previous verse, however, gives sense to this statement: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life" (John 5:24).

Taking both statements together, we understand that Jesus was referring to people who were physically living as "dead," meaning that they were dead in sin (see Ephesians 2:1-5). Sin is inexorably linked with death, just as it was from the beginning (Genesis 2:16-17). Death is a separation of body and spirit (James 2:26) and man's sin separates him from God (Isaiah 59:1-2; 1 Peter 3:12).

Those who would hear His voice, i.e., hear His word and believe in God, would be given life and would not "come into judgment" (John 5:24). Jesus claimed both the ability to give life to whomever He wished (John 5:21) and also to execute judgment (John 5:27).

With these affirmations fresh in the minds of His listeners, Jesus spoke of a different resurrection. "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth – those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation" (John 5:28-29). He didn't describe these people as merely "dead," but as those who are "in the graves," (note the difference from verse 25) indicating that He was now speaking of the physically dead. Not just some, but all who are in the graves will arise in that hour (i.e., at the same time). The result of this resurrection of the body will not be the same for all. For some, this reanimation and changing of the body will result in eternal life, but for others it will lead only to condemnation.

Why the difference in results? The difference lies in the life of the person being resurrected. Those who do not participate in the first resurrection (the spiritual resurrection of verses 24-25) cannot hope to continue to enjoy spiritual life after the second resurrection.

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

The Anderson church of Christ website at:

www.Anderson-church.org

On the Site You Will Find:

1. Information about the church at Anderson
2. The *Gospel Power* in .pdf format uploaded each Sunday.
3. Sermons preached at Anderson in Windows Media Player.

N^ews and Notes

THE SICK: *Sheila Moore* is in the Athens-Limestone hospital ... *Amber Hammond* has been sick this past week and spent Thursday night in the ECM Hospital... *Myrtie Williams* is at home after spending a couple of days in the hospital in Florence ... *C. L. Weathers* has been sick this past week and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Ava Mosley* was sick Wednesday night and was unable to be at Bible study ... *Noah Lane Hammond* went to his doctor in Birmingham on Monday for his diabetes ... *Shelia Goode* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Phil Pressnell* has continued to deal with his kidney stones but is doing better now... *Dana Grisham* has been sick this past week ... *Austin and Audrey Goode* have been sick this past week and was not able to be at services ... *Molly Kate Phillips* has been sick this past week, and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Jack Tucker* is not able to be out ... *Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the time for Communication Group two to meet. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group in the young adult classroom.

ELDERS MEETING: The elders will be meeting this afternoon at the building.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Eastside church* in Athens will be engaged in a gospel meeting this week with *Denis Veilleux* preaching. Services will be Monday and Tuesday evening at 7:00 The *Isbell church* in Franklin county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday with *Lonnie Oldag* preaching. Services will begin at 7:00 p.m. ... The *Old Moulton Road church* in Decatur is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services beginning at 7:00 p.m. The speakers will be as follow: *Sunday morning – Jackie Richardson; Sunday afternoon – Johnny Richardson; Monday – Johnny Richardson; Tuesday and Wednesday – Ed Bragwell; Thursday and Friday – George Hutto.*

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of Mar. 4th
Sunday:

Bible Classes 97
Morning Worship 113
Evening Worship 90

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 93



Gospel Meeting

March 25-30, 2007

(Sunday – Friday)

Mark W. White, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

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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