

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, March 25th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Bible Reading (No Reading)
.....
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Eddie J. Hammond
Assisting Rocky Rose
Serving Jim Phillips
..... Jonathan Keenon
..... Rodney McCrary
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (No Reading)
.....
Prayer
..... Larry White
Lord's Supper
..... Eddie J. Hammond
..... Rocky Rose
Closing Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Volume XIV

March 25, 2007

No.12

Beginning Today

Gospel Meeting

March 25-30

(Sunday – Friday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday: 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday: 7:00 p.m.

Mark W. White, Speaker
of Florence, Alabama

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

He Didn't Fit The Picture

Aaron Beard

The First Century Jew was one who was completely aware of the prophecies concerning the coming Messiah. The “Law and the Prophets” were constantly being read in the public places. He would have undoubtedly been longing for the coming of the Messiah, the Savior of the world. With this in mind, it seems paradoxical that when Jesus came fulfilling all prophecies concerning the Messiah, that many Jewish people missed it or refused to accept Him. Why is that?

One of the reasons that stands out is that Jesus did not fit the “mental picture” they had of the Messiah. They had certain ideas and wishes of the Messiah that were not scriptural. For instance, the apostles were constantly looking for an earthly kingdom. This is evident at times such as when they had scruples over who would be the greatest in His kingdom (Mark 8:35-45). Some may have been looking for the Messiah to make some “spectacular entrance,” be more concerned with worldly things, or to overthrow their current rulers. Whatever the case was, He did not fit their preconceived mental images so they would not accept Him.

Many have the same problem today with His church that the Jews had with Jesus 2000 years ago. In spite of the Bible’s descriptions of and instructions for the church, they have other preconceived desires for its organization, worship practices, and work. They seem to want its organization to be more complicated, fulfilling man’s desire for offices. They want worship services to come across more spectacular, entertaining man’s desires. They also want the church’s work to go beyond the bounds that the Lord established so that it would appear that they are doing much more “good.” Men go against the Lord’s will when through their pride they insist on these “improvements.”

Paul writes to Timothy and says, “... or the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up

for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables...” (2 Timothy 4:3-4). It does not matter how efficient it seems to make the church run, how entertaining it makes the services, or how much work seems to get done, if it is not done according to the word of God, it is not scriptural and must be stopped. One cannot perform certain “religious” practices because they sound good or satisfy any desire one might have.

There has been a great flow of people into the “Modern Mega Church Movement” as some have deemed it. These are churches that teach only what people want to hear. They build great structures that focus on entertaining man and feeding their stomachs. Their organization is complex with many offices and names not found in the Bible. People flock to these churches because they find them to be “fun and exciting.” One does not have to ponder the situation very long to figure out why they are so large.

This is the picture that many people paint in their minds of the church, even though the one the Bible paints is nothing like it. The church that Jesus built was not designed to entertain or feed, in fact it was condemned at one point for this (1 Corinthians 11:17-22). The church Jesus built preached Jesus and drew in people with His gospel. Those who obeyed His will were added to the Lord, not some complex organization. Those people in turn went out and preached Jesus (Acts 11:19-26). The “power of God unto salvation” has never been such things that much of the modern religious practices endorse, but it is rather the “gospel of Christ” (Romans 1:16). What a blessing it is when people put their pride and desires aside and are satisfied with enjoying serving God the way He has established.

-via Gospel Nourisher; Trussville, Alabama.

Remember Our Service Today at 4:00.

Internal Conflict

Glen Young

The way brothers and sisters interact is a phenomenon that is fascinating. Siblings will fuss and fight with one another. However, if one becomes the target of an outsider's bullying, the siblings unite.

I grew up the eldest of five children. I am sure an outsider would think we did not like each other. Hardly a day went by that there was not a busted lip, a bloody nose, a knot on the head, a black eye, a chipped tooth, and bruises of various sizes administered by one's own sibling. Nevertheless, if a neighbor kid decided to pick on one of the siblings, they paid the price for their impudent act of war.

This phenomenon also occurs in the affairs of the State. This past decade has seen the politics of our beloved Republic degenerate into vicious wrangling. It has been termed the politics of destruction. Political busted lips, bloody noses, black eyes, chipped teeth, and bruises have become the norm. The citizenry has lost faith with politics creating apathy for the election process. It now seems that a change has taken place. We are seeing cooperation. We are hearing words of agreement concerning the course of action our country should take being spoken by political rivals. What has brought about this change? A terrorist bully attacked our free Republic killing two thousand eight hundred and one of our fellow citizens.

The way that families and politicians treat one another is also seen among Christians. With no outside threat, local churches have a tendency to turn their attention inward. The atmosphere becomes tense and wrangling begins. The church at Corinth was a divided church. Paul addressed the problem by writing, "Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing and (that) there be no divisions among you; but (that) ye be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been signified unto

me concerning you, my brethren, by them (that are of the household) of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I mean, that each one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were ye baptized into the name of Paul" (1 Corinthians 1:10-13).

I draw our attention to two things. First, biting and devouring one another is a fulfilling of the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:15-16). Secondly, Christianity is under constant attack from the devil (1 Peter 5:8). I am told that Luther Blackmon once said, when brethren get stirred up they are worse than a nest of West Texas rattle snakes. I am sad to say it, but brother Blackmon's maxim rings true. Though the cry is for doctrinal purity, I fear that conflicting personalities are the culprit. Did Paul's unyielding nature make him more correct than Peter or Apollos? Did Peter's personal friendship with Jesus make him more correct than Paul or Apollos? Did Apollos' eloquence make him more correct than Peter or Paul? The obvious answer is NO!

Today, we are not in jeopardy of losing our life for the cause of Christ. Nonetheless, the devil attacks us constantly. He uses every terroristic and cowardly means at his disposal. We are at war with him. We need to reprove, rebuke, and exhort our brethren when sin is present. We need to love the brethren in word and by our deeds (1 John 3:18). Do not wait for some tragedy to express loving deeds to your brethren.

-via Northside News; Lexington, Alabama.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Claus Martel* is at home and is doing better following his neck surgery on Tuesday ... *Janice Moody* is doing better now after

being sick with the flu last week ... ***Ashley Thomas*** has been sick with pneumonia and was not able to be at services last week ... ***Jonathan Keenon's mother, Mary Cecile Keenon***, had a stint inserted in a vein in her heart this past Wednesday afternoon and is now home and doing well... ***Sissy Clemmons and Ronnie Phillips' mother, Lois Ann Corum***, was released from rehab on Friday following her rehabilitation for her knee replacement ... ***Helen Trousdale*** was sick last week and was not able to be at services ... ***Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer***, spent several days in the hospital this week at Helen Keller Hospital in Sheffield and the Veterans Hospital in Birmingham. He had three blockages in his heart stented on Thursday and is now at home ... ***Myrtie Williams*** is at home and not able to be out ... ***Jack Tucker*** is not able to be out ... ***Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire***, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to ***Steve Parker*** and all the family in the passing of Steve's uncle, ***Roger Corum***. His funeral was on Thursday.

OUR MEETING: This morning we are beginning our gospel meeting with Mark White preaching. I am looking forward to the week and the spiritual feast that we will have. Remember to continue to pray for the meeting, invite others to join us, and make a special effort to be at every service.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The ***Market Street church*** in Athens will be engaged in a gospel meeting this week with ***Steve Diaz*** preaching.

THE RECORD: Attendance—Week of Mar. 18th
Sunday:

Bible Classes 109
Morning Worship 130
Evening Worship 92

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) 729-8316
Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
Larry White (256) 247-0988
Brian Word (931) 565-3799

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