

# 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 Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 1st:

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Bible Reading ..... (Lev. 25:35-46)  
..... Ray Tucker  
Prayer  
..... Brian Word

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Prayer  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Kevin Chancellor  
Assisting ..... Phil Pressnell  
Serving ..... Jim Phillips  
..... Brian Blakely  
..... Brad Hammond  
..... Hunter Cox  
Closing Prayer  
..... James Word

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Bible Reading ..... (Lev. 25:47-55)  
..... Jonathan Keenor  
Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Lord's Supper  
..... Kevin Chancellor  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Closing Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose

Volume XIV

April 1, 2007

No.13

## *The Blessing of Adversity*

**Harold Carswell, Jr.**

*My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. (James 1:2-3).*

James more than likely was the James who was the Lord's brother (Galatians 1:19). During the earthly ministry of Christ, James was one who did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah (John 7:5) but later was listed as a believer in Jesus (Acts 1:14; 1 Corinthians 15:7). He was also a prominent member of the church at Jerusalem. The epistle in which the above verse is taken was written to the "twelve tribes, which are scattered abroad" (James 1:1). This of course would include both Jews and Gentiles (cf. Galatians 6:16). The epistle deals with various specifics but the overall theme of the book deals with faith and more specifically the man of faith. James takes what many refer to as the "practical approach" to Christianity.

It seems somewhat ironic that James, who was at one time an unbeliever, would be used by God to write an epistle on faith and being a man of faith. But perhaps this is not so ironic at all. When we look at the New Testament we should take note that every one of its writers are examples of subject title. They all came to realize the great blessings that came with adversity. All the Apostles were martyrs for the cause of Christ. Jesus said they would be His witnesses (Luke 24:48). The word witness is also translated (martyr). Even those who were not Apostles such as John Mark, Luke, James and Jude, are all recipients of the blessings that come with adversity.

Adversity can be defined as difficulties, misfortunes. Some of its synonyms are trouble, difficulty, hardship, distress, disaster,

suffering, affliction, sorrow, misery, tribulation, woe, pain, trauma, mishap, etc. What are some of the blessings that can be gained through adversity according to the inspired James?

### **Patience...**

James writes to Christians and states they are to count it all joy when in trials and tribulations because when our faith is tested we gain patience. The word patience is *hupomone* ~ steadfastness, constancy, endurance, in the New Testament the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings (Joseph Thayer).

James would also speak of the patience of Job (James 5:11). Job was stripped of all his worldly possessions, deprived of all his children, tortured in body with sore disease, tempted by the devil, harassed by his wife, and ridiculed by his friends. Nevertheless, he held fast his integrity, resigned himself to the Divine dispensations, and charged not God foolishly. We too gain patience through adversity if we allow it! Notice James says but “let patience have her perfect work”. James places the responsibility upon the Christian to allow adversity to be profitable and a blessing.

### **True Faith...**

James mentions that another blessing of adversity is “true faith”. Just the mention of true faith tells us that there is false faith. False faith includes erroneous teaching and belief of such teaching but is not limited to this. The word “faith” not only refers to belief but also carries with it the idea of trust and dependence. False faith also refers to doubt and a lack of trust. James states that such a man should not expect anything from God (James 1:6-8). So many people have a very strong academic based faith but lack the trust and courage to exercise their faith without wavering. To know the word of God is to practice without doubt what the word of God’s says. James states that the Christian’s faith must be accompanied by works of faith! He says in chapter 2 of the epistle “faith without works is dead” (James 2:14-26). James uses two individuals that exemplify true faith. Both

Abraham and Rahab showed their faith (trust) in God by their works toward God. Abraham put the life of his son Isaac on the line when he offered him up as a sacrifice to God believing/trusting that God would raise him up because of God’s promise to him (Hebrews 11:19). Rahab put her life on the line when she hid the Israelite spies who had come to spy out the city of Jericho. She knew the God of the Israelites was the true & living God. She had heard what He had done to the Egyptians and trusted that He could deliver her from death (Joshua 2:1-24 cf. Hebrews 11:31).

### **Sincerity...**

James has much to say about hypocrisy.

- Sincere religion (James 1:21-27)...
- Sincere judgment (James 2:1-13)...
- Sincere obedience (James 3:1-18)...
- Sincere love...
  - ~ Toward God (James 4:1-10)...
  - ~ Toward one another (4:11-12)...

### **Hope...**

James ends this epistle with hope. The hope that James refers to is the hope of heaven. This is the only true hope that the Christian has. The uncertainty of this life cannot bring about surety. The behavior of others cannot be depended on regarding justness and righteousness. So the faithfulness of God is all that we have as Christians to rely on. God has proven himself faithful and has proven that He can be depended upon to keep His word. The Christians’ reliance on God is manifest by their prayers and conduct (James 5:1-20)!

We should all ask ourselves the question, has adversity been a blessing or a curse for me?

~via *South Brundidge St. Messenger*; Troy, Alabama

**Vacation Bible School**

**July 9-13, 2007**

**Anderson church of Christ**

Highway 207 South  
Anderson, Alabama

# *Look Out For Wolves*

**Allen Dvorak**

Christians live in a dangerous world. It is a world full of evil influences and every disciple of Christ must guard against possible inroads into his thinking by Satan's onslaught. However, such challenges may not be the greatest danger which the saint faces.

The truth of God sets men free, but false doctrine will cause men to be lost (John 8:32). The apostle Peter wrote, "But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed" (2 Peter 2:1-2). Not only do false teachers bring "swift destruction" upon themselves, but they also will contribute to the destruction of others, i.e., those who accept their "destructive heresies."

It is often not too difficult to recognize the false teacher. He is suspect first because of the context of his teaching. He (or she!) is associated with a religious denomination and such denominations are founded upon false doctrine. Second, his teaching may obviously contradict the plain teaching of the New Testament.

The more dangerous false teacher is the one who looks like the sheep! Using the figure of the flock to describe God's people, Jesus characterized the false prophets (or teachers) as "ravenous wolves" who appear in "sheep's clothing" (Matthew 7:15). The thought is that the false teacher may appear to be a faithful Christian upon cursory examination.

That's what makes him so dangerous. Not just that he teaches doctrine which will condemn, but that he is hard to recognize. Some sheep will be "devoured" by his false doctrine because they trusted him. He doesn't wear a sign proclaiming himself to be a predator. He secretly brings in destructive heresies, sidling up to sheep

after sheep to plant his unscriptural views (2 Peter 2:1). He often doesn't proclaim his view from the pulpit. Instead he works behind the scenes, questioning sound teaching, always ready to offer a "better view" to those who are made receptive to his deceptive words by flattery (2 Peter 2:3, 13-14, Romans 16:18; Jude 16). He doesn't devour a sheep quickly. He distracts a sheep from the Shepherd's voice until that Christian is so enamored with the false doctrine that he doesn't recognize the truth anymore. Eventually that same disciple is advocating the false doctrine, having "discovered" how wrong the doctrine he once accepted is. He has been devoured by the wolf who, by now, is concentrating on his next victim.

It is not the purpose of this article to cause brethren to view each other with suspicion and distrust. We **do** need, however, to be able to recognize those false teachers who are dressed in sheep's clothing. Jesus taught that we can recognize them by their fruits (Matthew 7:15). The ultimate test for false teachers is the doctrine taught - do the Scriptures support it?

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

## **N**ews and Notes

**THE SICK:** *Claus Martel* is recovering from his neck surgery and has been able to be at services this week... *Sanda Martel* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be at services ...*Janice Moody* is sick this week ...*Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer*, is at home following a procedure to have three stints inserted in his heart ...*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.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Coopers:* Curt, Marcia and Erin have been in Florida this past week... *The Blakelys:* Brian, Sarah, Hayden and Brooke have been in Florida this past week... *Cori Williams* is out of town this week and plans to be back home tomorrow... *Lou Ann Phillips, Wanda Tucker and Shelia Goode* will be out of town this week in Gulf Shores.

**OUR MEETING:** This past week we have been engaged in a gospel meeting. *Mark W. White of Florence* was here preaching and did his work well. The attendance was very good and we had a good number of visitors throughout the week. I appreciate all who worked and prayed for this effort.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Helton Drive church* in Florence will be engaged in a gospel meeting this week with *Jeff May* preaching. Services will begin on Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m.... The *Brookhill church* in Killen is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday with services this afternoon at 2:30 and Monday and Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. *Bobby Graham* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Corinth church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. They will have different speakers as follows: *Sunday morning – Eugene Britnell; Sunday evening – Guy McDaniel; Monday – Buc Chumbley; Tuesday – Allen Dvorak; Wednesday – Norm Webb, Sr.*

**THE RECORD:** Attendance—Week of Mar. 25th  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 118  
Morning Worship ..... 141  
Evening Worship ..... 125

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 117



**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

**Evangelist & Editor**

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

U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Bulk Rate  
Anderson, Alabama  
Non-Profit  
Permit #6

*Anderson church of Christ*  
P.O. Box 66  
Anderson, Alabama 35610

Return Service Requested