

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 8th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader Brian Word
Bible Reading (Lev. 26:9-17)
..... Brian Blakely
Prayer Larry White

Morning Worship

Song Leader Brian Word
Prayer Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper
Presiding Scottie Goode
Assisting Aric Butler
Serving Jonathan Keenon
..... Eddie L. Hammond
..... Mark McCrary
..... Trent Thornton
Closing Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond

Evening Worship

Song Leader Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Lev. 26:18-26)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer Steve Parker
Lord's Supper
..... Scottie Goode
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Kevin Chancellor

Volume XIV

April 8, 2007

No.14

"Every First Day of the Week"

G. Clark Dugger

While most folks understand why the Lord's Supper is to be eaten ("in remembrance of me," Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29), there is confusion over just exactly when the supper is to be eaten. There is no direct command concerning when the Lord's Supper should be eaten, but there is an approved apostolic example: "And upon the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread" (Acts 20:7).

The first day of the week (our Sunday) was the day on which Jesus was raised from the dead (John 20:1). Just as the Sabbath (seventh day of the week, our Saturday) was the day Jews were to remember their deliverance from Egyptian bondage (Deuteronomy 5:15), so is the first day of the week the day Christians are to remember their deliverance from the bondage of sin. Jews remembered every Sabbath day, so are Christians to remember Christ's sacrifice every first day of the week by partaking of the Lord's Supper. This is the Lord's day; a day of remembrance; the day Christ was raised from the dead. I think this argument is valid. But let's consider for a moment an argument from the text itself.

Paul told the Corinthians, "Upon the first day of the week let each one of you lay by him in store, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come" (1 Corinthians 16:2). This passage not only authorizes a common treasury, but the collection of which is to be made "upon the first day of the week." In the original Greek, the phrase rendered "upon the first day" is "kata main." In Acts 15:21 we see the phrase "kata polin" translated "every city," and in Revelation 22:2 we see "kata mena" rendered "every month." Hence, "kata main" means literally "every first day" (Nestle Interlinear Greek-English New Testament, p. 704). Paul tells these brethren, "when therefore ye assemble yourselves to-

gether” (1 Corinthians 11:20) they were partaking of the Lord’s Supper in an “unworthy manner” (v. 27). Just when did they assemble themselves together to eat the Lord’s Supper? We see this identified in 1 Corinthians 16:2 as they met every first day of the week (kata main). Since they met every first day of the week to break bread, Paul tells them to “lay by in store” on this day as well.

And so, while it is true that Jesus did not tell us when to partake of the Supper at the time He instituted it, that is, what day and how often, the approved example of Acts 20:7 not only binds upon us the first day of the week as the only day authorized by Scripture to partake of it, but it binds upon us every first day of the week. Also we must remember why apostolic or approved examples are binding in the first place. They are binding because behind every approved example in the New Testament lies a commandment of God.

Why do you think the brethren at Troas and at Corinth met on every first day of the week to partake of the Lord’s Supper? Do you think it was an arbitrary thing? Absolutely not! They met on this day every week to partake of the Lord’s Supper because God commanded them to do so. So why didn’t God record the commandment? I don’t know, you’ll have to take that up with God. But could it be that He considered remembering the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord on the day He arose from the dead to be such a fundamental thing that recording the commandment to do so was not necessary.

—via *Susquehanna Sentinel*; Marietta, Pennsylvania

Vacation Bible School

July 9-13, 2007

Leon Mauldin, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

The Soul of Obedience

Robert F. Turner

Remember the old story about the man who was going on a journey, and asked his son to lay out the farm according to his instructions? Corn was to be planted in this field, beans in that, the garden here, a shed built there. The boy put the corn where his father wanted it, and the beans where the father said. But he changed places for the shed and garden. When his father returned and objected to his son’s disobedience, the boy argued he had done half of what his father ordered; but the father said, “No, you did nothing in obedience. It is obvious that you only put the corn and beans where you did, because you thought they should go there.”

We might well ask ourselves the question, “Why do we live as we do?” Is it out of respect for God and His laws, or are we simply following a pattern of mores that we approve, and which represents no higher authority than our own traditions. The motive for obedience is an aspect of law that has been somewhat ignored.

In Paul’s arguments on law versus faith (Romans and Galatians) he certainly does not rule out law. He says faith establishes law (Romans 3:31); and he says the law is “holy, just and good” (Romans 7:12). Its weakness was by virtue of its subjects, men (Romans 8:3); but even then, it served to bring them unto Christ — aware of their need for mercy and forgiveness (Galatians 3:24).

One can not accept the existence of God and ignore the expression of His will; and acknowledging the relation of creature to Creator imposes an obligation to submit to His hand (Romans 1:20-21; 9:20-21). There is close correlation between keeping the commands of God and abiding in God, and He in us (John 14:23; 1 John 2:3-6).

Christ is the “author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him” (Hebrews 5:9); and saving faith is an obedient faith (James 2:24)

“which worketh by love” (Galatians 5:6). The principle here is not that of law meritoriously obeyed (which would demand perfection) but because obedience from the heart demonstrates our attitude toward Him who made and gave the law. How else could the breaking of one law make a man “guilty of all”? James explains, “He that said, Do not commit adultery said also, Do not kill” (James 2:10-12; 4:10-11). To select from all God said those parts we approve and are willing to obey, assumes a position above that of God. It is to imagine ourselves judges of the law, hence of God, instead of realizing we are subject to and are judged by the law, hence by God. Without the proper attitude toward God, no obedience (?) is acceptable to Him.

Some have suggested these Bible approved motives for obedience: fear of punishment, appreciation of our position as clay to Potter, and varying degrees of love for God. Paul says “the love of Christ (our recognition of His love for us) constrains us” (2 Corinthians 5:14). However you list them, they start with faith “that God is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6). Perhaps we are failing to elicit more obedience to God because we do not work hard enough at preparing the soil, or stirring proper motives.

-via *The Beacon*; Charlottesville, Virginia



The New Commandment

Phil Robertson

“A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if you have love one for another.” (John 13:34-35).

Have you ever wondered why Jesus called loving one another a new command? Through-

out the Old Testament, the Law of Moses repeatedly instructed the children of Israel to love their brethren, neighbors (Leviticus 19:18) and even strangers (Deuteronomy 10:19). So why is it a “new commandment”?

Jesus’ command was not a new law as much as it was a new standard. He is taking love to a whole new level. In John 13, the King of Kings stooped to wash His brethren’s feet. He did not limit His humble action to those who loved Him and were concerned with His well being because Judas was still at the table. He is commanding a pure, unadulterated, self-sacrificing love that was foreign even to the Lord’s disciples. It is a perfect love that cannot be faked or given half-heartedly.

So how do we fulfill this “new” love commandment today?

1. We eagerly seek the company of our brethren (Acts 2:46).
2. We seek to serve the needs of our brethren (Acts 2:44-45).
3. We esteem others better than ourselves (Philippians 2:4).

Ultimately, this new form of love became the hallmark of Jesus’ followers. It was one of their greatest tools in reaching the lost (Acts 2:47; Romans 13:8-10). A sound church is measured by more than “doctrine.” Jesus expects His disciples to love as He loved.

-via *Hueytown Church Bulletin*; Hueytown, Alabama.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Leota Springer’s husband, Bob Springer*, is in the Helen Keller Hospital in Sheffield, room 320 ... *Jonathan Keenon’s father, Glen Keenon*, is in the Decatur General hospital in Decatur due to chest pains he was experiencing ... *Claus Martel* has not been able

to be at services this apst week due to not doing well... **Kerry Cox** was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick overthe weekend ...**Janice Moody** has been sick this past week and has not been able to be at services ...**Ronnie & Lou Ann Phillips** were sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night... **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.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight is the night for Communication Group two to meet. If you are in group two remember to meet with your group tonight.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The **West Madison Street church** in Pulaski, Tennessee will be engaged in a gospel meeting this week with **Joe Corley** preaching. Services will begin on Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m....The **East Florence church** in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Gary Patton** will be the speaker in this meeting...The **Eastside church** in Riussellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. **L.A. Stauffer** will be the speaker in this meeting...The **Oakland church** in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Fridaywith services at 7:00 p.m. The speaker in this meeting will be **Ken Leach**.

THE RECORD: Attendance-Week of Apr. 4th
Sunday:

Bible Classes 105
Morning Worship 130
Evening Worship 82

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 84



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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