

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, May 6th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Bible Reading (Num. 2:1-9)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
Presiding Eddie J. Hammond
Assisting Jerry Dickey
Serving Trent Thornton
..... Hunter Cox
..... Eddie L Hammond
..... Curtis Mosley
Closing Prayer
..... Jonathan Keenon

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Num. 2:10-17)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Steve Parker
Lord's Supper
..... Eddie J. Hammond
..... Jerry Dickey
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Word

Volume XIV

May 6, 2007

No.18

Do You Wonder? So Do We!

Robert F. Turner

It is quite natural for people who visit with religious groups other than their own, to wonder about their practices. Genuine concern should be encouraged -- it is far better than an “I could care less” attitude, which often means we have no genuine convictions about our own religion.

Do you wonder why we baptize -- why we immerse in water, rather than simply sprinkle a little water on the head of the candidate? We will answer your question. We immerse because the word “baptize” meant “immerse, submerge, dip or plunge under” in the first century when the New Testament was given (see any good Greek-English Lexicon). Paul called baptism a “burial” (Romans 6:3-4; Col.2:12) and in an example of New Testament baptism, “they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch” (Acts 8:38). Now, we wonder also! We wonder why you sprinkle and do not immerse. Can you give a Bible answer? Will you??

Do you wonder why we sing but do not play a mechanical instrument of music in the worship? Fair question. We sing because it is authorized in New Testament church worship (1Corinthinas 14:15). We do not play, because there is no authority for such (see Acts 16:25; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12). We do not appeal to the Old Testament (which authorizes animal sacrifice, incense burning, etc.) because we are now subject to the law of Christ (Hebrews 7:12). We wonder why you, who claim to be following Christ, insist on playing??

Do you wonder why we partake of the Lord's Supper every First Day of the week? The early disciples did so “upon the first day,” (Acts 20:7). We have authority, therefore, to do this whenever the First Day comes (compare “Remember the Sabbath,” meaning

whenever a Sabbath occurred) and no limitations suggested (see 1 Corinthians 11:23-f; 1 Corinthians 16:2). We are deeply concerned about what and all that God would have us do - - surely a good attitude. What scriptures do you give for a “once, twice, or four times a year” partaking of the Lord’s Supper??

Do you wonder why we preach and practice congregational independence? It is because there is no authority in the New Testament for anything else. Oversight (Acts 14:23; 1 Peter 5:1-4) is on a local scale; treasury (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Philippians 4:15) is on a local scale; hence collective action is on a local scale. If you think you find authority for oversight and treasury on a brotherhood scale (churches acting collectively) why do you continue to preach congregational independence? Or, if you preach and practice denominational organization -- on what authority do you do so?

Do you wonder why we insist upon New Testament authority for our faith and practice? Good question! We are trying to “do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17). We strive to act in keeping with the spirit of truth (1 John 4:6). We desire to walk in fellowship with Almighty God (1 John 1:6-f; 2 John 9-11). We wonder how you could love the Lord, and claim fellowship with Him, on any other basis (John 14:23,17:17).

via *Fishers Church Bulletin*; Fishers, Indiana.



You Are Still Lost

Norman Midgette

False hope! It abounds everywhere. For those who do not want to obey the gospel of Christ and still hope to be saved they have company, both ancient and modern.

God does many good things for the heathen who are lost but woe be unto them if they mistake this goodness for salvation. Here are some examples.

Jesus said. “... for he maketh the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust” (Matthew 5:45). God does this for the unjust. When he has done it they are still as unjust as before. They may have the sun and the rain but they still have their sins. Paul confirmed the same thing in Acts 14:17 when he said, “And yet he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave you from heaven rain and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness.”

Even if you have a bountiful crop in your garden or you have a good job and can buy all the good food you want that does not mean you are saved. The heathen have gladness and joy and life often go their way and the obstacles are so few. Woe to the man or woman who interprets this to mean they have the fellowship of God and are saved.

There are those who think God has answered their prayers and because of this, falsely believe God has saved them. Such would be a tragic conclusion to draw. I may not always know how God works but I do know this: “We know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of God, and do his will, him he heareth” (John 9:31). In Proverbs 28:9 God said, “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.”

The prayers of Cornelius had gone up “for a memorial before God” (Acts 10:4), but even after the angel of God told him this, Cornelius would have been a very mistaken man if he had concluded he was a saved man. We know this is true because shortly thereafter the Holy Spirit told Peter to go to the house of Cornelius and speak to him “words” by which he and his house would be saved (Acts 11:14). What God does with your prayers has nothing to do with how he deals with your sins.

And finally the greatest thing God has done for you while you are an alien sinner is to have Christ die for you. “But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Just because he died for you does not mean you are saved else we have universal salvation.

Many good things have come from God to the alien sinner. Do not mistake any of these as signs of your salvation. There is only one thing that will save you. That is your faith in and obedience to the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:7, 8). Until you obey the gospel, all the rain, sun, fruitful seasons, and gladdened hearts will not save you. You are still lost. It is time you let go of these false hopes and obey the gospel where there is real hope. Confess your faith in Christ, repent of your sins, and be baptized for the remission of those sins (Matthew 10:32, 33; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). You will be lost no longer and you will still have all of these blessings plus many more. Take your stand with Christ today not just with his blessings.

-via *Portage Progress*; Portage, Indiana



Who Would Have Thought?

Carl McMurray

Results of a recent study from Mississippi State University, working with the parents of more than 16,000 kids brings us **big** news indeed. The study compared the scores of children on self-control, exhibiting poor or unhappy behavior, and how well they respected and worked with peers to parents statements on how frequently they attended worship, talked with their children about religion and argued about religion in the home. Two main conclusions seemed to stand out.

- 1) The kids whose parents attended worship services, especially when both parents did so frequently, and talked with their children about religion, were rated by parents and teachers as having better self-control, social skills, and approaches to learning.
- 2) When parents argued frequently about religion, the children were more likely to have problems. Religion seemed to “hurt” if faith was a source of conflict or tension in the

family.

Researchers credited the good influence of religion for three reasons.

- 1) Religious networks provide social support to parents, helping to improve their parenting skills. Also, children who are brought into such networks hear the same message from other adults that they hear in their own home, thus reaffirming the importance of the message.
- 2) The types of values that circulate in religious congregations tend to be self-sacrificing and pro-family. This is important to how parents relate to their children and how the kids develop in response.
- 3) Lastly, religious congregations impart sacred meaning and significance to parenting.

Of course it doesn't take a university study for Christians to see the importance of following God's value system in the home, rather than the worlds'. Just turn the above three reasons around to see the values that most of the world is teaching today. 1) Abdicate responsibility for parenting to schools, government, and child care officials instead of learning parenting skills oneself. 2) Encourage kids to think that the family revolves around them instead of teaching them service. And, 3) mock family values by encouraging unwed parenting, divorce, materialism, and homosexual agendas.

Ephesians 6:1-4 does not say it all, but it certainly starts the relationship of parenting, children, and spirituality on the right track for everybody involved. The one who built us has provided the manual for proper operation. Who would have thought?

-via *Good News*; Anderson, Indiana.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Myrtie Williams* is in the Glenwood rehabilitation center in Florence following her surgery for her broken hip ... *Callie*

Grisbam has been sick this week and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... **Corey Word** was sick this past week, but is doing some better now ... **Janice Moody** was able to be back at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick over the weekend ... **Shelia & Robyn Goode** were sick on Wednesday and unable to be at Bible study ... **Ronnie Phillips** had a stress test done on Friday... **Lakin Hammond** has been sick and unable to be at services this past week ... **Signa Skipworth & C.L. Weathers' cousin, Hilda Fincher**, continues in the ECM hospital..... **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 **Leota Springer and all the Springer family** in the passing of Leota's husband, **Robert "Bob" Springer**. His funeral was Saturday afternoon in Rogersville.

OUT OF TOWN: **Sheila Moore** is back home this week after being out of town with her work ... **Logan Pressnell** has been out of town the last couple of weekends... **James Word** is in Florida visiting with family this week... **The Clemmons: Michael and Sissy** are going to be out of town a few days this week.

GOSPEL MEETING: The **Hays Mill church** in Athens will be engaged in a gospel meeting this week with **Randall Hammock** preaching. Services will begin on Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m.... The **Jackson Heights church** in Columbia, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services each evening at 7:00. **Ken Weliever** will be the speaker in this meeting... The **Weatherly Heights church** in Huntsville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Thursday with services each evening at 7:00 p.m. **Bob Owen** will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: Attendance—Week of May 6th
Sunday:

Bible Classes 110
Morning Worship 131
Evening Worship 84

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 86

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
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