

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 13th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Num. 2:25-34)
..... Rocky Rose
Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Michael Clemmons
Assisting Brian Blakely
Serving Brad Hammond
..... Rodney McCrary
..... James McConnell
..... Jonathan Keenon
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Prtessnell
Bible Reading (Num. 3:1-10)
..... Steve Parker
Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin
Lord's Supper
..... Michael Clemmons
..... Brian Blakely
Closing Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips

Volume XIV

May 13, 2007

No. 19

Life: A Series of Corrections

Bill Robinson, Jr.

A few years ago a friend of mine remarked to me "Life is a series of corrections." The older I get the more I believe his observation is true.

The word correct means: "to remove the errors or mistakes from; to indicate or mark the errors in; to admonish or punish for the purpose of improving; to remove, remedy, or counteract; to adjust so as to meet a standard or required condition." Simply stated correction has to do with change.

However, it's not simply change for the sake of change but rather change for the sake of being and doing the right thing. Yet, such change is difficult because we are going to have to admit our errors in understanding and/or our practice. Furthermore, the fact that the word correction is part of our everyday language indicates there is a standard by which things must change in order to be made right in every field of human endeavor.

In the first century, which we read about in the Bible, Jesus came to make corrections. Yet, what was the nature of the opposition and hostility with which He was greeted? It was the unwillingness of mankind to admit their religious error and change their thinking and practice. Jesus said in knowing the truth we can be made free (John 8:32). This freedom enables us to make the corrections in our lives to be right with God rather than be enslaved to the religious errors and practices of men. The sincerity of our desire, for this freedom to change, can only be determined by our willingness to correct and change our lives to live for Christ, which is forever and inextricably bound to our knowing the truth. For such is the purpose of the truth which God has revealed in His word (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

via *Power Talk*; Lexington, Kentucky

The Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

David Hartsell

Of all the infamous characters in the Bible, Pharaoh stands out. He blatantly defied God. When Moses told Pharaoh that Jehovah said to let Israel go, the Egyptian King responded, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go." (Exodus 5:2) Pharaoh thought he was a god. Why should he listen to the dictates of the God of an enslaved people? Paul teaches that Pharaoh hardened his heart against God's will. More than that, Paul asserts that God hardened the king's heart. (Romans 9:17-18) God raised Pharaoh up to show His power through him. God uses people for good or ill. "Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens."

So how does God harden some people while others genuinely repent? Is individual predestination taught by Paul or is there more to this idea? Immediately, we can toss out the idea that God overrides people's free will. Too many passages state that God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34) and that we have been given the gift of freely making our own choices. (Matthew 11:28-30)

So how did God harden Pharaoh's heart? He simply made demands on the king that were against Pharaoh's political interests. Egypt, at this time, was a world power. Their economic and political system was based upon slave labor. How would the Egyptians perceive the releasing of all those in bondage? Would this not look weak? Pharaoh must show strength. How dare these bondsmen make such a crazy demand!

Probably, Pharaoh's pride was the greatest inhibitor to releasing Israel from captivity. God understood the king's heart. He, through Moses, made the persistent demand to let Israel go. At times, Pharaoh behaved as if he was weakening but, in the end, he would refuse or put stipulations on the release that were unacceptable: leave your women and children behind or don't take

your animals. God responded to Pharaoh's obstinacy by bringing plagues on Egypt. Water turning to blood, frogs, lice, and proliferation of flies are examples of these plagues. Every plague gave Pharaoh an opportunity to develop faith in God. God confirmed His Word with every plague. But, each time the plagues were lifted Pharaoh hardened his heart against The Lord. The plagues began as a nuisance but the latter ones had severe consequences. Number ten was the death of the firstborn in every Egyptian family. Even Pharaoh's firstborn died. Immediately Israel was told to leave. Pharaoh's hard heart cost him and his people dearly.

We have a choice as to what type of heart we will have. We can listen carefully to God's word and with deep emotions be brought to repentance. Saul of Tarsus is a perfect example of such a person. When confronted with a miraculous communication from the Lord, Saul developed faith. Paul's repentance was shown by his abstinence from food and drink for three days. (Acts 9:8-9) It was repentance that led Saul to "wash away his sins" in baptism. (Acts 22:16) Later, Paul said he always strove "to have a conscience without offense toward God and men." (Acts 24:16) Paul kept his heart soft. What about us? When God tells us how we should honor and serve Him, how do we react? We should realize the futility in fighting against God and serve him gladly out of love. But, like Pharaoh, we can harden our hearts and receive the same horrible end. Remember, just because God does not execute judgment speedily does not mean there are no eternal consequences (Eccleciastes 8:11).

-via *The Beacon*; Charlottesville, Virginia.

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Cosmetic Religion

Dan S. Shipley

In the seven “woes” pronounced by Jesus in Matthew 23 are to be found the most severe and scathing rebukes recorded in the entire Bible. In His condemnation of these hypocritical scribes and Pharisees, Jesus likens them unto whited sepulchers, “...which outwardly appear beautiful, but inwardly are full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness.” Then He continues, “Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but inwardly ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity” (v.27, 28).

Because men are impressed and influenced by outward appearances (1 Samuel 16:7), and because we all like the approval of others, we must be very careful not to play the role of the hypocrite. Our righteousness must be more than appearance, it must be a way of life. We must develop a consistency of character that is not altered by circumstance or companions. We must avoid the mistake of these scribes and Pharisees and not allow ours to become a cosmetic religion—the kind that is seasonal and superficial and dependent on appearances. And the place to begin cultivating Christ-like character is in the heart and in the home.

Let’s face it! What a person is at home is what he is! Nowhere is true character more obvious—no pretense, no false airs here. And nowhere is a demonstration of spiritual character more needed! Every wife needs the kind of husband who will heed God’s admonition to love her “as Christ also loved the church” (Ephesians 5:25); who will have regard for her needs, her interests and her feelings. Many neglected and mistreated wives wish their husbands were at home what they appear to be in public.

Likewise, men have few earthly blessings to enrich their lives more than a godly wife; one who manifests respect and subjection “as unto the Lord” (Ephesians 5:24,33). Her chaste behavior, shamefastness, sobriety; her meek and quiet spirit and other such qualities reflect an

inward adornment highly valued by the Lord (1 Peter 3; 1 Timothy 2)—and by the discerning husband! How regrettable that some women have neglected such adornment in favor of the outward. Regardless of what wives seem to be in public, when they cease to be “keepers at home,” they cease to please the Lord (Titus 2:5). When women become indifferent to God given responsibilities to husband and home, their religion merely becomes a part of their outward adornment—and the entire family suffers for it.

Consequently, children are hurt immeasurably by parents who practice cosmetic religion. Even little ones recognize the disparity between home and “church-building” conduct—and, in later years will not likely forget it. Parents would do well to begin every day with a vivid and fresh recollection that God wants them to rear their children for heaven! None helps or hinders their eternal welfare more than mother and daddy. But mark it well! Bringing up a child “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” is impossible!—for parents who do not live for the Lord. We must put away religious hypocrisy! Let us make a start—from the heart—beginning at home—today.

—via *The Cornerstone*; Richmond, Virginia

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Signa Skipworth* is in the ECM hospital in Florence ... *Amber Hammond* has been sick and unable to be at services this past week due to a collapsed lung ... *Myrtie Williams* is in the Glenwood rehabilitation center in Florence ... *Noah Lane Hammond* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Ronnie Phillips* had a stress test done 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.

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

OUT OF TOWN: *Cindy Pressnell* is back home this week after being out of town with her work ...*Leota Springer* is out of town this weekend in Foley...*James Word* is back home now after being out of town last week...*Ronnie Phillips* is out of town this weekend visiting with Wesley in Texas... *The Clemmons: Michael and Sissy* are back home after being out of town for a few days...*The Blakelys: Sarah, Hayden and Brooke* are in Ohio this week...*The Chancellors: Kevin, Laurie, Abby* are in Corinth, Mississippi visiting with family.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Hollings' Gin church* in Ardmore will be engaged in a gospel meeting this week with *Mark W. White* preaching. Services will begin on Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

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

Bible Classes 109
Morning Worship 129
Evening Worship 94

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 83



Vacation Bible School
July 9-13, 2007
Leon Mauldin, 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
Eddie J. Hammond (256) 247-3038
Mark McIntyre (256) 729-8316
Steve Parker (256) 247-7843
Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
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