

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, July 1st:

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Eddie J. Hammond

Bible Reading (Num. 7:1-9)

..... Steve Parker

Prayer

..... Aric Butler

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Eddie J. Hammond

Prayer

..... Michael Clmmons

Lord's Supper

Presiding Rocky Rose

Assisting Brian Blakely

Serving Corey Goode

..... Tyler Cox

..... Daniel Clemmons

..... Eddie L. Hammond

Closing Prayer

..... Mark McIntyre

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Bible Reading (Num. 7:10-17)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Jerry Dickey

Lord's Supper

..... Rocky Rose

..... Brian Blakely

Closing Prayer

..... Andrew Gatlin

Volume XIV

July 1, 2007

No. 26

Join us As We Study

"Neighbors For Jesus"

Vacation Bible School

July 9-13 – 10:00 a.m.

There will be classes for ages:
Nursery through Adult.

Adult Class

"Bible History and Geography"

Leon Mauldin, Speaking

Sunday, July 8th

9:45 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 11th

7:00 p.m.

"In The Steps of Paul"

Leon Mauldin, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South

Anderson, Alabama

The Foolishness of the Cross

Mike Wilson

“For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18). In this one statement, Paul exposes the perverse human tendency to measure the revelation of God by the standards of human wisdom. As Helmet Thielicke has said, “When God’s thoughts are *actually* higher than our thoughts, we regard him as being refuted. For under all circumstances we want *our* thoughts to be the program according to which God operates.”

The problem is exacerbated when we consider that God has revealed the depths of supernatural wisdom in plain workingman’s clothes. He has not spoken to us in the “tongues of angels” or in “unutterable groans.” Instead, He has employed human thought forms and “blue collar” vocabulary to change our wicked ways and stir our souls. Some were saying of Paul, “His personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible” (2 Corinthians 10:10). Exactly how is it, some have thought, that the intense pleadings of a dying martyr (Acts 7:51), the tears of an old man (Philippians 3:18), the parodies of singing prophets, and the gentle but firm rebukes of a Galilean Carpenter have turned the world upside down? Besides, the central facet of the message is a scandalous story of a would-be Savior dying on a cross! “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

The scorn and derision of unbelievers have caused a reactionary tendency of believers to desperately want to dress the gospel up in philosophical clothes, to make it more respectable. Paul’s appeal to the church at Corinth, in short, is, “This is the wrong approach!” Human achievement is limited. Once in a long while, a mere mortal will make a great discovery. Galileo said, “I render infinite thanks to God for being so kind as to make me alone the first observer of marvels kept hidden in obscurity for all previous centuries.”

These discoveries pale compared to the

power of the Almighty Creator. Moreover, we need to be reminded, as Paul reminds the worldly saints at Corinth, that God is God and man is man (1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5). Men are inclined to worship the human spirit. A “we-can-do anything” mentality seems to pervade human thought. Nevertheless, man’s capacity to determine the will of God does not reside in his own unaided powers. No mere mortal can manufacture a divine message, no matter how hard he tries (Deuteronomy 30: 11-14). God has utilized the “foolishness” of the gospel to confound the world’s wisdom, that “no man should boast before God” (1 Corinthians 1:29).

That does not mean the revealed message lacks power to do what it was intended to do. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s 1972 “Nobel Lecture on Literature” was directed to answering the question of what literature can do “in the face of the remorseless assault” on human freedoms. At the height of the cold war, he said, “One word of Truth shall outweigh the whole world.” Truth is more powerful than a nuclear arsenal, an oppressive government, or a tight network of secret police. It is also more powerful than Satan’s propaganda mills, which continue to churn out lies. Hugh Hewitt has rightfully surmised, “But believers do themselves enormous harm by overestimating the pure numbers of their opponents and by underestimating how insecure these opponents are in their collective disbelief” (The Embarrassed Believer, p. 35).

The truth of Christ does not need to be repackaged in garb that makes it more respectable to sinners whose pride blinds them to the light. What is needed is an army of courageous and dedicated soldiers of the cross who will not be silenced by the scorn of the world — in short, Christians who are “in no way alarmed by your opponents — which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that from God” (Philippians 1:28).

~via *Edwards’ Lake Bulletin*; Birmingham, Alabama

Why We Cannot Ignore Unfaithfulness To The Lord

Mark W. White

A man who was intent on being unfaithful to the Lord once told me, "I'm not hurting anyone but myself. Leave me alone, and quit bothering me about attending the services," he said.

The Devil has really convinced many irresponsible brethren that they have a right to go to Hell "unbothered" by others who wish to rescue them. Never mind the admonition of Scripture to the faithful that "*if a man is over taken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness*" (Galatians 6:1). The easy course for the faithful is to ignore the unfaithful. Some churches do this as a matter of policy, in fact. Some brethren want to be a part of a "fellowship" which quickly looks the other way if sin and unfaithfulness is the path a brother or sister is taking. But both brethren and churches who operate in such a fashion have completely missed what is church is all about.

Discipline, both instructive and corrective, is almost defunct in many places. The unfaithful brother walks away into obscurity, wishing to be ignored, forgotten, and left "unbothered." Some churches are all too eager to accommodate his unrighteous desire. You see, it is much easier to remove his name from our directory than it is to roll up our sleeves, go to work on his problem, shed tears over his unfaithfulness, and save his soul from Hell. The sad fact is that if we ignore the erring brother and give him the quiet exit he wants, we are no better off than he is. It is a serious thing to ignore our brother's sin. We enable him to be unfaithful by turning our heads. We fail to do what we are expected to do by our Father. In short, we fail to be our "*brother's keeper*" (Genesis 4:9).

Cain made the mistake of thinking that he was not responsible for the welfare and whereabouts of his brother. The very nature of brotherhood suggests responsibility for those who have come from the same womb. When a child

is born into God's family he has mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers who must now take responsibility for his care. No earthly family would ignore a member walking away from the circle of love which binds a family together. Why then, does it happen so frequently in the family of God?

Let us be reminded that Galatians 6:1 was not just addressed to the elders of the church. Certainly, as shepherds of the flock, they have a responsibility to keep the sheep together and in the fold. Shepherds who are asleep and allow the sheep to be scattered receive scathing rebukes for doing so in Ezekiel 34:1-10. Indeed, they do have a special responsibility to "*watch for souls*" (Hebrews 13:17). But all members who are "spiritual" are charged with the same responsibility of restoring the erring. James 5:19-20 says, "*Brethren if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*"

When you became a part of this local church, you were asking for love, acceptance, care and discipline. It's what makes us a family. Please understand that if you choose to walk away from our fellowship that we cannot ignore your behavior. Our love for you, for your soul, and our concern for your eternal welfare will not allow us to look the other way if you fall headlong into sin.

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Helen Trousdale's son-in-law, Wayne Kent*, is at home from the hospital and

will be going to Birmingham for heart surgery in a couple of weeks... **Charles Glass** has had the shingles this past week and has not been able to be at services ...**Dyanne Johnson** continues at home following surgery for her fractured foot ...**Myrtie Williams** continues in the Glenwood rehabilitation center in Florence... **Janice Moody** is doing much better following her fall and plans to be at services today ...**Tanya Hammond's father G. W. Long**, is scheduled for surgery on July 9th...**Lisa Word's father, Austin Dillinger**, continues in rehab in Florida ...**Signa Skipworth & C.L. Weathers' cousin, Hilda Fincher**, continues in a Birmingham hospital... **Jack Tucker** is confined at home ...**Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette.

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

PREACHING THIS MORNING: **Larry Rouse** will be preaching this morning at our morning worship service. It is good to have **Larry, Yvette, Stephen, Nathan and Emily** with us. We help with Larry's support for the work in **Charlottesville, Virginia**. I know that you will profit from the lesson and will enjoy hearing Larry preach.

PREACHING TONIGHT: In my absence, **Kevin Chancellor** will be preaching tonight at 6:00 p.m. I know that you will enjoy hearing him speak.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Words:** **Lisa, Michael, Corey and Olivia** are still in Florida with Lisa's family...**The Coxes:** **Kerry, Tyler, Hunter and I** will be leaving this afternoon for Belgreen and will be worshipping there this evening.

THE RECORD: Attendance—Week of June 24th
Sunday:

Bible Classes 93
Morning Worship 107
Evening Worship 67

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 83

Remember Our Service Tonight at 6:00.

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
Brian Word (931) 565-3799

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