

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 Priviledged To Serve:

Sunday, July 22nd:

Bible Classes

Song Leader Brian Word
Bible Reading (Num. 9:1-8)
..... Rocky Rose
Prayer Ray Tucker

Morning Worship

Song Leader Brian Word
Prayer Kevin Chancellor
Lord's Supper
Presiding Phil Pressnell
Assisting Aric Butler
Serving Michael Word
..... Jo9nathan Keenon
..... Mark McCrary
..... Curtis Mosley
Closing Prayer James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Num. 9:9-14)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer Brad Hammond
Lord's Supper Phil Pressnell
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer Scottie Goode

Volume XIV

July 22, 2007

No. 29

Behavior In Worship: Exemplifying Priorities

Gene Taylor

True worship, extended in the proper manner and spirit, will edify us and intensify the hope of heaven. But when our worship is not taken seriously, our actions are impotent and our spirituality weakened.

Worshipping God is a serious matter which should not be taken lightly. When Christians assemble for worship, Jesus is with them in a special way (Matthew 18:20). Therefore, whatever is done at worship services is done openly before Him; and whatever hinders His people from worshipping Him affects Him (remember the teaching of Matthew 25:31-46, i.e., what is done to his brothers is done to Him).

Historically, as a people, we have had behavior problems at services. There is noise before services and distractions during services (in and out of rest-rooms, note-passing, talking, etc.).

The Heart Of The Problem

What is at the heart of these problems? Is it a lack of love? For some it is, especially young people. Some youngsters are only at services because their parents make them come. But for most this is not the reason. Is it a lack of desire? I do not think so. Most of those who are present desire to please God or they would not be there. The cause of these problems is a lack of appreciation for the sanctity of worship.

Too many people possess an attitude that is just too casual for proper worship. Some approach the worship services of the church with the same attitude they have in engaging in secular activities such as attending school, going to work or even going to the doctor. If problems with worship are going to be solved and people are ever

going to worship properly, the attitudes with which they view worship must improve.

What Misbehavior At Worship Services Reveals

Misbehavior at services reveals a lack of respect for the speaker. The preacher or Bible class teacher deserves respect because of the word he is teaching (see Hebrews 12:25-26). When people act improperly during preaching or in a Bible class, talking when the preacher or teacher is talking, interrupting in class, laughing and cutting up, etc., they have a disregard for both the messenger and the message. Too many, both young and old, view the speaker with the same attitude with which they view a secular teacher.

Misbehavior at services among the young shows a lack of respect for parents. Young people, your parents have often suffered to give you life, to care for you when you could not care for yourself, to clothe you, feed you, and stand by you. How do you think it makes them feel to learn you caused a disturbance during Bible classes or preaching? Consider Proverbs 15:5: "A fool despises his father's instruction, But he who receives correction is prudent."

Misbehavior at services shows a lack of respect for those sitting nearby. It is hard to teach and even harder to listen when there are distractions and disruptions all around you. All people, young and old, need to be considerate of those around them. Also, they need to remember their behavior impacts visitors. Visitors may be watching and judging the Lord's church by your actions. Just recently I heard a visitor to our services comment to one of our members after services had ended that they had never seen so many people with weak bladders.

Misbehavior at services shows a lack of maturity. All young people are anxious to grow up and become adults. But when they, and those who are older, misbehave they are acting like children.

Misbehavior at services demonstrates a lack of respect for God. It is one thing not to respect the preacher or teacher but it is another thing altogether to show disrespect to the all-mighty God of heaven. Ask yourself, are the things you

do when misbehaving at services (talking, giggling, laughing, gazing about, punching each other, writing notes, playing with trading cards, interrupting, making rude remarks, etc.) worth losing your soul over? God takes it that seriously. We should have His same attitude.

Some Suggested Remedies

Parents, begin training early. Do not just teach your children to be quiet. Teach them to reverence and respect God. Sit near the front where there are fewer distractions. Sit as a family. Do not let your children routinely go to the restroom. Do not let your children play. While toddlers may need something for entertainment, children of five or six years old and up can sit quietly and listen and participate. You will be amazed how soon they will learn the words of the songs and what they might glean from the lesson. Understand, it is not enough just to bring your children to services. They must be doing what is proper while they are here if they are to benefit from them and develop an interest in spiritual things.

Set a good example before your children. Show interest and attention. Do not sleep or engage in activities which are secular. Show the proper respect for the speaker or Bible class teacher. Speak highly of worship periods in front of your children. Pray for God's help.

Realize where you are and who is there. When you are assembled with His people, you are in the temple of the living God (1 Corinthians 3:16). Both the Father and the Son are present, so act accordingly.

Follow the advice of 2 Corinthians 10:5 to bring "every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

Conclusion

Worship is a blessed privilege that should be guarded with love, zeal and a realization of its worth and value. No one in his right mind should ever be guilty of misbehaving or acting inappropriately during worship services or Bible classes. All should act responsibly and properly before God.

Put On Bowels of Mercies

Stacy Crim

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, ...” (Colossians 3:12-13a).

Christians should have the desire to administer mercy when necessary. God has certainly been merciful to us as sinners and we must learn to reciprocate mercy unto others.

In Matthew 18:23-35 we have Jesus’ parable of an unmerciful servant. One of the king’s servants owed him a large sum of money. It was the day of reckoning and the servant was to pay back what he now owed the king. The servant did not have the money so the king ordered that the servant’s wife and children be sold to pay the debt. The situation was intense and the servant about to lose all that he had threw himself at the feet of the king and begging him to give him more time to pay his bill.

What happens next is what truly motivates mercy. “Then the Lord of the servant was moved with compassion...” Compassion was necessary at this moment in time. This man was going to lose what was truly important if the king did not intervene. The compassion to forgive.

Unfortunately the servant would not do the same when confronted with a similar situation in his own life. Thus the teaching of Jesus “Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?”

“So likewise shall My heavenly Father do also unto you if ye from your heart forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.” A great challenge for us all!

~via *The Cornerstone*; Richmond, Virginia.

Remember the Bible Drill at 5:30 p.m.

The Anderson
church of Christ
website at:

www. Anderson-church.org

On the Site You Will Find:

1. Information about the church at Anderson
2. The *Gospel Power* in .pdf format uploaded each Sunday.
3. Sermons preached at Anderson in Windows Media Player.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Sarah Blakely* is at her parents this weekend following her hernia surgery on Thursday. She plans to be home the first of the week ...*Myrtie Williams* is in Glenwood following her recent stay in the hospital. She is waiting for her foot to heal before she can begin rehab ...*Tanya Hammond’s father G. W. Long*, is now at home from the hospital following his lung surgery... *Helen Trousdale’s son-in-law, Wayne Kent*, is awaiting heart surgery after his esophagus heals ...*Ambler Hammond* was sick this week and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Carson Crunk* has been sick this week and not able to be at services ...*Corey Word* has been sick this past week with sinus problems and has not been able to be at services ...*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.

ELDERS/DEACONS MEETING: This afternoon at 3:30 p.m. the elders and deacons will be meeting at the building.

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

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: Remember the children's Bible drill will be this evening at 5:30. I hope that all of our children will attend and as many adults who can will be there to encourage our young people.

OUT OF TOWN: *Cori Williams* away last weekend for the GEMS camp... *Tyler Cox* will be in Belgreen this week.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: *The Tharptown church* in Tharptown is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday. *Kasey Harbin of Athens, Alabama* will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: Attendance—Week of July 15th

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 99
- Morning Worship 119
- Evening Worship 85

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 76



Gospel Meeting

Sept. 30 – Oct. 4 2007

(Sunday – Thursday)

Dee Bowman, 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
- Mark McIntyre (256) 729-8316
- Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
- Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
- 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