

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 29th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Bible Reading (Num. 10:1-10)
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Jonathan Keenon

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Lord's Supper
Presiding Andrew Gatlin
Assisting Jimmy Glass
Serving Jim Phillips
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Rodney McCrary
..... Tyler Cox
Closing Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Tyler Cox
Bible Reading (Num. 10:11-17)
..... Ray Tucker
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
..... Andrew Gatlin
..... Jimmy Glass
Closing Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Volume XIV

July 29, 2007

No. 30

“To Whom Shall We Go?”

David A. Cox

In John 6, we find that the ministry of Jesus had grown in popularity. Many people that were following Jesus were not following Him as the Christ, but for material and political gain. Those that were following Christ heard his teaching and He spake plainly to them about the fact that He was the Christ. Many of those following Jesus began to have problems with this teaching. John said the response of many that heard Jesus was, “This is a hard saying; who can hear it?” (John 6:60). It was at this time “that many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life” (John 6:66-67). This question Peter asks is a very important question for all to consider, “To whom shall we go?”

There Is No Substitute

Peter recognized the fact that there was no substitute for the gospel of Christ. Christ is the one to whom “all authority and power has been given” (Matthew 28:18). To look to something else or someone else would separate one from Christ. Jesus said, “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth aboard” (Matthew 12:30). To look elsewhere, there would be no forgiveness and no salvation. In Acts 4:12, Peter, speaking of the salvation that is in Christ states, “Neither is that salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” It is clear that Peter understood that there is no substitute if one is to receive eternal life, so one must remain with Christ.

Many Well-Meaning People Refuse Christ

These disciples that turned away from Christ, recognized that they needed Him to have eternal life. But they failed to recognize

what Peter understood, that Christ is the only one that has the “words of eternal life”. Today, people will often make statements such as, “*we cannot all understand the Bible alike*” or “*you may practice one thing and I can practice another, but we will all get to heaven in our own way.*” These two statements are saying that the words of Christ are not important. The words that Jesus spoke are the words of eternal life as Peter declared. In John 12:48 Jesus said, “the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” The words of Jesus are important and eternal life is based on the words of the Lord. Lip service to Christ will not be enough, but rather life of action based upon doing the Lord’s will. In the sermon on the mount Jesus said, “Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:21-23).

May we all realize as Peter did the importance of what Christ teaches and commands us to do. May we realize that there is no substitute for doing the will of God. Let us live our lives serving the Lord faithfully and abiding in the gospel of Christ; receiving “the grace of God that bringeth salvation” (Titus 2:11).



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Come join us as we study God's Word.

Propitiation

Tom Hamilton

There are some English words that are considered to be only theological terms and, as such, are never used in any other context than religion or the Bible. However, no word in the original Greek New Testament was purely a Bible word, but every word was used in ordinary, day-to-day speech by average, commonplace people. The ordinary meanings of these words were well understood by everyone, and when these same words were used in the Bible, the people knew what was intended by them. Unfortunately, this is not true of some of the theological English words which have been placed in our English translations of the Bible.

One such word is “propitiation.” When is the last time you heard factory workers talking about “propitiating” the boss? Or grocery shoppers commenting on the store’s latest “propitiation?” It’s simply not a word you will ever hear in any context besides religion, and even then it is rarely heard. In short, most people don’t even know what “propitiation” is or means.

“Propitiation” is the translation of *hilasmos*, which occurs twice in the New Testament (1 John 2:2; 4:10). The verb *hilaskomai* occurs twice also (Luke 18:13; Hebrews 2:17), as does the related noun *hilasterion*, which means “place of propitiation” (Romans 3:25; Hebrews 9:5). This word family is used frequently in the Septuagint and in secular Greek literature as well, and its real meaning cannot be disputed. “Propitiation” refers to the process of making one favorably disposed toward yourself, especially in appeasing their anger toward you.

Unfortunately, several biblical scholars, wanting to be commentators instead of translators, have insisted on translating *hilasmos* as “expiation.” Since most people don’t know propitiation from respiration or expiation from sanitation, the meddling efforts of these “translators” are largely overlooked. These scholars argue that God cannot be the object of propitia-

tion, because God is already favorably disposed toward humanity, and therefore hilasmos refers simply to the means of forgiveness or “expiation.”

Certainly, the Bible does not intend us to view God from the same perspective of propitiation as the pagan Greeks who first used the word — an angry, capricious, temper-tantrum-throwing god who must be given food and gold to calm him down or for whom the proverbial maiden must be cast into the volcano. But this does not preclude the Bible from using a term pagans understood, using it in such a way as to lead the pagans to the truth about the One True God and teaching them about true propitiation. When one insists on blandly calling hilasmos “expiation,” the subtle nuance of the term and why it was chosen is lost.

In fact, the use of the term is no more difficult to understand than the Bible’s reference to God’s anger or wrath (of course, it is no surprise that those who want to get rid of the idea of propitiation must also explain away God’s wrath). This does not mean that God’s ultimate attitude or emotional state toward us is not love, but refers to a legal state of affairs in which God’s justice holds all of us under penalty of death for our sins.

No matter how much God loves us, He cannot lie and the wages of sin must be paid. But God, wanting to be both just and the justifier, established a means by which both God’s love and God’s justice could be satisfied (Rom. 3:21-26). If all that were involved were God’s love, all would be saved and man would be required to do nothing. But in fact God’s wrath, that legal aspect that cannot allow God to simply ignore sin, must be turned away, and that process is called propitiation.

The marvelous thing about God is that it is His very love which provided our own propitiation! In other words, our propitiation is not even something we do for ourselves, but is the work of God. This is the depth of God’s love — to sacrifice God’s self as our propitiation to appease God’s own wrath over our sin. All we need do is

to appropriate this work of God for ourselves by trusting in it and Him.

-via *The Folsom Point View*; Folsom, California..

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Sarah Blakely* has been recovering this week from her recent surgery...*Helen Trousdale’s daughter, Edith Kent*, had surgery on Tuesday morning to repair her rotator cup ...*Myrtie Williams* is in Glenwood in Florence ...*Helen Trousdale’s son-in-law, Wayne Kent*, is awaiting heart surgery after his esophagus heals ...*Tanya Hammond’s father G. W. Long*, is at home from the hospital ... *J. T. Word, James Word’s brother*, is in the St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville ...*Shelia Goode* was sick on Wednesday and not able to be at services ...*Lisa Word* has been sick this past week and was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Signa Skipworth & C.L. Weathers’ cousin, Hilda Fincher*, is in Glenwood in Florence... *Jack Tucker* is confined at home ...*Judy Williams’ mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette.

MEN’S BUSINESS MEETING: The elders have scheduled a men’s business meeting next Sunday afternoon, August 5th. I hope that all the men will make their plans to attend.

NEW QUARTER IN BIBLE CLASSES: Today we are beginning our summer/fall quarter in our Bible classes. We are looking forward to this quarter and the teachers for this quarter are as follows:

Nursery:

Suzette McIntyre/
Glenda Phillips (Sun./Wed.)

2 -3 Year Old:

Jamie Mosley (Sun./Wed.)

4 -5 Year Old:

Cori Williams(Sun./ Wed.)

Kindergarten -Grade 1:

Marcia Cooper(Sun./Wed.)

Grade 2-3:

Andrea Butler(Sun./Wed.)

Grade 4-6:

Wanda Tucker(Sun./Wed.)

Jr.-High School:

Brian Blakely(Sun./Wed.)

Young Adult:

Scottie Goode(Sunday morning)

Adult:

Michael Clemmons(Sunday morning)

David Cox(Wednesday night)

I want to express my appreciation to all of those who taught during the spring/summer quarter. We had a very good quarter. I am eagerly looking forward to this quarter and hope that all who can will be present and prepared for our periods of Bible study. There are classes for all ages. Won't you join us in a study together of God's word?

OUT OF TOWN: *Robyn Goode* has been in Gulf Shores this week with her aunt.

THE RECORD: *Attendance-Week of July 22nd*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 94

Morning Worship 112

Evening Worship 92

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 87

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.

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Scottie Goode (931) 565-3391

Deacons

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Mark McIntyre (256) 729-8316

Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509

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