

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, August 12th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Num. 11:16-23)
..... Rocky Rose
Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
Presiding Eddie J. Hammond
Assisting Brian Blakely
Serving Corey Goode
..... Curtis Mosley
..... Mark McCrary
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Num. 11:24-30)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey
Lord's Supper
..... Eddie J. Hammond
..... Brian Blakely
Closing Prayer
..... Jonathan Keenon

Volume XIV

August 12, 2007

No. 32

Dumbing Down of Christianity

Phil Robertson

Did you know that 10% of church goers in America believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife? That really should not surprise us, since less than 20% of "church goers" will attend Sunday school this week. A lack of biblical knowledge in churches seems to be a sign of the times.

Popular Christian researcher George Barna claims people are soft when it comes to committing to God. "Americans are willing to expend some energy in religious activities such as attending church and reading the Bible, and they are willing to throw some money in the offering basket. Because of such activities, they convince themselves that they are people of genuine faith. But when it comes time to truly establishing their priorities and making a tangible commitment to knowing and loving God, and to allowing Him to change their character and lifestyle, most people stop short. We want to be 'spiritual' and we want to have God's favor, but we're not sure we want Him taking control of our lives and messing with the image and outcomes we've worked so hard to produce" (www.barna.org - April 18, 2006).

As frustrating as this may be for church leaders, we need to ask ourselves, "Are we seeking ways to reverse this trend or are we contributing to the problem?" It seems churches have resorted to entertaining the masses instead of educating. You may be more likely to get a drama or extravaganza when you "go to church" than a Bible class or a sermon. In fact, a local news station recently ran a story on a church that had replaced all preaching with plays.

Jesus was faced with a similar dilemma during His ministry. He knew people were not following Him for the right reasons. So, He refused to feed them. "Most assuredly I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate the loaves and

were filled. Do not labor for food which perishes, but for food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you” (John 6:26-27).

Instead of seeking to emulate theaters and concert halls, maybe churches would have better attendance and more commitment if they looked and acted like a church. In its infancy, Christianity was grounded in teaching and preaching the gospel of Christ. Young evangelists were admonished to “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching” (1 Timothy 4:2). Why was there such an emphasis on education? Because the gospel, and only the gospel, “is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16).

In conclusion, this may be the most disturbing statistic. About one-third of Americans who describe themselves as “born again” believe that if a person is good enough they can earn a place in heaven. That is scary! Many in churches do not understand the most fundamental biblical doctrine – grace. No one will ever be “good enough” to go to heaven (Ephesians 2:4-9). The gospel is “good news” for this very reason. Jesus died in our place and then was raised from the dead (2 Timothy 2:8). We are saved by His blood not our own goodness (Romans 6:3-10).

However, if we do not preach it, people will not learn it. Biblical faith begins with the word of God (Romans 10:17). That is why the apostle Peter said, “Beware lest you fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen” (2 Peter 3:17-18).

-via *Hueytown Bulletin*; Hueytown, Alabama.

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

The Truth About Sin

Paul Smith

Several years ago, the title of a book that was published asked the question, Whatever Became of Sin? Well, I must confess in a world where evil men and imposters proceed from bad to worse (2 Timothy 3:13) it does seem as if the word “sin” has disappeared from the human vocabulary. Even today, this seems to be finding its way into the church.

My responsibility as a Christian, and most certainly as an evangelist, is not to join the majority in a world of evil who would seek to circumvent the issue or attempt to whiten up the blackness of sin. My obligation and yours as a disciple of Christ is “do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light...” (Ephesians 5:11-13). Just what does sin do?

Sin hurts God. Too often when people sin they begin by mourning over the consequences of their sin, such as disgrace, poverty, disease, and emotional discomfort, rather than shedding tears because they realize they’ve sinned against a holy God. When David had been confronted with his sin, he confessed to God, “Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight” (Psalms 51:4). David declared later in (verse 17), “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.” David’s heart was broken because he realized he had broken the very heart of God. Sin hurts God!

Sin hurts others. In my estimation it’s selfishness to the core when people argue that their refusal to submit themselves to God only negatively affects them. What utter foolishness. Try reasoning this way with parents who shed tears at the funeral of their fourteen year old son whose life was taken due to the drunk driver who thought his drinking wouldn’t hurt anyone but

himself. Try convincing a broken-hearted woman whose world is devastated by the adultery of her husband, and now she is forced to explain to her three children why daddy left her for another woman. Sin hurts others!

Sin is expensive. How much pain and heartache could be avoided if only people would recognize the high price of sin. Sin is so expensive. Sin will take you farther than you wanted to go, keep you longer than you wanted to stay, and cost you more than you ever intended to pay. Sin is expensive!

Sin will be dealt with by God. Too many ignore sin and its wages (Romans 6:23) and think that somehow their sins will go unnoticed or be overlooked by God. Too many want to sow "wild oats," and then pray for crop failure. God's spiritual law of sowing and reaping doesn't work that way. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life" (Galatians 6:7-8). God will deal with sin and the sinner who refuses to repent. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10). Don't kid yourself, your sins will be brought into judgment; even those things that others don't know about. "For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:14). Sin will be dealt with by God!

Sin can be forgiven. What good news! Not that we have sinned, but that God in His grace will abundantly pardon any and all sins if we will truly confess them and forsake them. "For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in loving kindness to all who call upon You" (Psalms 86:5). Is there any message that brings hope like the good news that God forgives?

When all is said and done, the tragedy of sin is best seen in the price God was willing to pay

for its removal. If sin is trivial, Christ's death is trivial. "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ..." (1 Peter 1:18-19). Only Jesus is the answer to our sin problem, and that's the truth about sin!

-via *Cedar Park Church Bulletin*; Cedar Park, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Helen Trousdale* is in the Health South Rehabilitation in Huntsville, following her surgery for a broken hip room 307 ...*Helen Trousdale's son-in-law, Wayne Kent*, is scheduled to see a surgeon on Friday about his upcoming heart surgery ...*Jonathan Keenon's father, Glen Keenon*, is at home following his stay in the Decatur General hospital ...*Myrtie Williams* is in Glenwood in Florence...*Amber Hammond* is having difficulty breathing and has not been able to be out as normal...*Jamie Mosley's grandmother, Evelyn Morrison*, is in the Huntsville hospital following surgery to remove a brain tumor ...*Marla Clemmons' grandfather, Harry Blackburn*, is in the Huntsville hospital ...*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.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Eastside church* in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday night with ser-

vices at 7:00. *Cecil Cox* will be the speaker in this meeting... The **Sandlin Road church** in Elkmont is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting... The **O'Neal church** in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Services will begin at 7:00 p.m. with *David Hartsell* preaching... The **Elgin Hills church** in Elgin is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Bob Waldron* will be the speaker.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight Communication Group B will be meeting. If you are in group B remember to meet with your group.

VBS SINGING: We recorded the children singing during the Vacation Bible School recently. If you would like a copy of the singing, let Brian Word or me know.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Phillips: Jim, Brooke, Sam, Molly Kate and Harrison* are in Nashville this weekend. Jim is in Nashville for schooling with his work. Brooke and the children are visiting him this weekend... *The Martels: Claus and Sanda* are out of town this weekend... *Jerry Best* has been on vacation this past week.

THE RECORD: Attendance—Week of August 5th
Sunday:

Bible Classes 93
Morning Worship 102
Evening Worship 91

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 77

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
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