

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, November 11th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Num. 21:21-30)
..... Steve Parker
Prayer
..... Brian Word

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
Presiding Eddie J. Hammond
Assisting Jerry Dickey
Serving Brad Hammond
..... James McConnell
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... Rodney McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Num. 21:31-35)
..... Jonathan Keenon
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper
..... Eddie J. Hammond
..... Jerry Dickey
Closing Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin

Volume XIV

November 11, 2007

No. 45

The Booing Spectators

Bill Hall

Have you ever noticed who does the booing at a ball game? It is not the players on the field. They have made their own mistakes, and they are not inclined to boo their fellow-player when he makes his. They are pulling **for** one another, encouraging, helpful. They play as a team, win or lose as a team, suffer together as a team, and rejoice together as a team. It is the spectators who boo. So it is in every walk of life: it is the spectators who, as a rule, do the criticizing, **not** the participants.

Unfortunately, in every congregation, there are the spectators and the participants. The spectators never teach a Bible class, preach, lead singing, preside at the table, or encourage those who do those public works; they really don't get that much involved in the worship itself. But, more often than not, they are the very ones who are found criticizing the preacher or the song leader or the Bible class teacher. They are the ones who are so embarrassed and incensed when someone commits an "error" in his efforts to lead the group. They come wanting to hear something interesting and that will make the time fly. If they hear, they "cheer"; if not, they "boo."

Not so with the true participants, those who are really involved in the Lord's work. They are the ones "cheering on" that "rookie" who is preaching his first sermon or leading his first song. When a brother attempts to teach his first Bible class, they are looking for ways to be helpful. They are sympathetic; they rejoice in the success of others; they mourn over the sorrows of others; they feel for the one who has failed, make allowance for him to try again, and assure him that he will do better next time. They rejoice especially in the development of the young men and women in the Lord's work. They are just as nervous and excited when the young people make their first attempt at presiding at the table or teaching a class

as they would be if they were their own children.

How many preachers have decided to move because of the booing spectators right at the time when the participants were enjoying their greatest spiritual growth? How many elders have planned a work around the demands of the spectators rather than the needs of the participants?

Spectators need to become participants and find out what it's like out there "on the field". Participants need to keep on doing their best, ignoring the "boos" while looking to their all-seeing and understanding "Manager" for approval. All need to be preparing for judgment, where it will be the "doers of the word", not the critics, who will be saved. "Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous" (1 Peter 3:8).

Christians, like ball-players, make a sad mistake when they listen too closely to the "boo-birds".

-via *New Georgia Bulletin*; Rogersville, Alabama.



"Pain, Pain, Go Away"

Bubba Garner

I was driving down I-45 when it happened. An unfamiliar, orange-colored light appeared between the oil temperature gauges. In horror, I read the dreaded words on the dash---"Check Engine." I didn't know what it meant, I just knew it was going to be expensive. The mechanic looked the car over, tested all the systems on his computer, but couldn't find anything. When I got in to drive home, I asked why the "Check Engine" light was off. "I disconnected it," he said. "It's fixed."

A lot of people are "fixing" their problems the same way. When we feel the pains of conscience or some other spiritual discomfort, we

would rather eliminate the symptom than find the source. Pain, just like the "Check Engine" light, is an indicator that something is not right. And sometimes we think that as long as we cover it up, disposing of the messenger, we have treated the problem. But in fact, all we end up doing is intensifying the pain.

Pay less attention to prayer. How do we think that's going to help? Yet, when we are burdened and feel the signal that something's wrong, we assume that leaving the Lord out of the loop will somehow make things better. Someone who is really struggling, who has not been attending the services will tell you, "well, I've got a lot of things I've got to work on in my life and when I get those settled, I'll come back to the Lord." They've got it backwards. You can't get it straightened out without Him. And when you turn everything over to Him, He's the One who makes the pain manageable because you see that it actually has a purpose in your life. I'm afraid that many of us don't believe in the power of answered prayer because we're not praying. He who kneels before God can withstand any pain.

Don't worry with worship. That's an easy fix, too. Because if you're not praying, what's the point of worshipping? We often neglect the worship service because we don't "get anything out of it." The song leaders never lead any of our favorite songs. The prayers are too long and a waste of time because they don't include anyone in our family. The preacher's subject doesn't fit our mood or our schedule for that matter. Where is the concern to give to God what is His? Before we think about what we can get out of it, let's be certain we have put something into it that has been pleasing in His sight. When that is our concentration and focus, we will derive certain benefits from worship that will help prepare us for heaven. A place where there is no longer any pain (Revelation 21:4).

Isolate rather than assimilate. I once heard about a weatherman who was reporting during a heavy snowstorm. He noticed that the trees that were clustered together were not breaking under the weight of the snow. "They lean on each other," he said. You want to know why it's

important for us to stay together? Consider the trees. But how can we “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2), when we don’t know what each other’s burdens are? Or when we don’t use what we’ve learned about our pain to help someone who is experiencing the same sufferings? We need one another. Don’t think it makes you brave and strong to try to face your problems by yourself. All it does is leave you out in the cold.

Someone has said, “Pain makes us think. Thinking makes us wise. Wisdom makes us profitable.” Be willing to reach down and help someone up. But be just as willing to reach up when you think you’re beyond all help. And keep looking to Jesus who promised rest to all who are weary and heavy-laden (Matthew 11:28-30). There’s no better way to spell relief.

-via *Northside News*; Lexington, Alabama.



“Trust Me”

Troy Nisholson

A recent article in *The Tennessean* (“Skeptics thrive in America,” 6-8-03) began with these two words. It went on to reveal how Americans do not trust others as much as they once did. The National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago has been tracking the percentage of trust that most Americans have. In 1964, 53% of those surveyed said that “most people can be trusted.” The numbers dropped to 49% in 1971, 44% in 1980, and 39% in 1991. The latest figures, from 2002, dropped to only 35%.

So why have trust levels been dropping? The article mentions various theories, including rising crime rates, television, rising divorce rates, living in larger communities, weaker job security, and rising economic inequality. One common thread with each of these theories is people. People are responsible for all of the listed theories. We could say, then, that people are responsible for decreasing levels of trust.

We must remember that people are humans, fallible beings. Some people – those who have no regard for righteous living – will intentionally deceive us and use us to their advantage. Even those who have the best of intentions will at times fail us and cause us to question our levels of trust in them. The psalmist warns against putting our trust in people (Psalm 146:3).

We must also remember that we are human and fallible. We must be careful about trusting ourselves. We often think we know what is best but are simply wrong. “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 16:25). We must learn to “lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5).

But all is not gloom and doom when it comes to trust. We can put our complete trust in God. While others may fail us, God never will. He has promised, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5), and His track record proves His trustworthiness. “It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man” (Psalm 118:8).

And while we have all proven ourselves unable to adequately navigate our way through life on our own, we can trust God’s guidance. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

So the next time some event occurs that may decrease your level of trust in others or yourself, read a piece of the currency in your pocket. Notice that each piece says, “In God We Trust.” If you will carry that thought with you, not only in your pocket but also in your heart, then you will have the answer to every situation in life.

-via *The Lakeview Lamp*; Hendersonville, Tennessee.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Amber Hammond* is scheduled to have surgery on Friday at ECM in Florence

... *Wynell Ridgeway's grandson, Will Brown*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence ... *Brooke Blakely* has continued to be sick and not able to be at services... *Ethan Wallen* had surgery done on his knee last weekend ... *Myrtie Williams* continues in Glenwood Convalescent Center in Florence ... *Jim White, Eric White's father*, is undergoing cancer treatments ... *Signa Skipworth and Catherine Parker's sister, Anna Jean Luffman* continues her recovery from her recent heart surgery ... *Signa Skipworth, Catherine Parker & C.L. Weathers' cousin, Hilda Fincher*, is now at her home ... *Jack & Onzell Tucker* are confined at home ... *Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be Communication group C's night to meet. If you are in group C remember to meet with your group tonight.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *New Georgia church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. *Buc Chumbley of Athens* will be the speaker in the meeting. They will have a singing this afternoon at 3:00 followed by a service at 4:00. Monday through Wednesday services will begin at 7:00 p.m.... The *Needmore church* in Haleyville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with *Mark White of Florence* preaching. Monday through Friday services will begin at 7:00 p.m.

PREACHING TONIGHT: Tonight, I will be away preaching at the *Carriger church* in Limestone county. In my absence, *Kevin Chancellor* will be preaching for me. I appreciate Kevin and his willingness to fill in for me while I away away.

OUT OF TOWN: *The McConnells: James and Freda* are in Florida this week... *The Clemmons: Marla, Lydia and Laura* were out of town this last weekend... *The Butlers: Aric, Andrea and Arica* are in Kentucky this weekend.

THE RECORD: Attendance—Week of Nov. 4th

Sunday: Bible Classes 81
Morning Worship 96
Evening Worship 76
Wednesday: Bible Classes 75

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
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