

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, December 16th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (Num. 26:12-22)
..... Aric Butler
Prayer
..... Rodney McCrary

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jimmy Glass
Assisting Steve Parker
Serving Jim Phillips
..... Rodney McCrary
..... Aric Butler
..... Mark McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Num. 26:23-34)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
..... Jimmy Glass
..... Steve Parker
Closing Prayer
..... Jonathan Keenon

Volume XIV

December 16, 2007

No. 50

Using The Right Tool

Russ Bowman

About two weeks ago, I had to replace an exterior door on our house. It had to be replaced because my dog destroyed the old one and Dad was going to be back in a few days. So, I went to the lumberyard and bought a new door. Now, I'm not much of a carpenter and I lack experience in the areas of construction and repair. However, with a little figuring here and there, I was able to see what needed to be done to hang this new door.

Of course, my biggest problem became quite clear when I picked up the new door and found that it was in no way ready to be hung in place. No, instead it lacked all of the proper holes for the doorknob and the indentations for the hinges and weatherstripping. No problem, I naively thought. Three hours later, I thought again.

Reflecting upon the whole incident now, I can see that I'll never again try to construct or repair something without the proper tools. It's difficult to try to make a two inch hole with a one inch wood bit, or to try to cut one quarter of an inch off the edge of a door with a jigsaw and still keep the edge straight. If I gained nothing else from the whole affair, I now can see the importance of working with the right tools.

We live in a world which has so stressed the idea of freedom and liberty that many folks have forgotten that they are still under bondage to sin and obligated to God. Some of the "religious leaders" and the less worldly of our day have seen this problem and have gone about trying to repair it. However, instead of using the proper tools with which to correct the problem, they have tried to make the tools which they find most convenient fit the problem, even if those are the wrong tools.

Have you ever tried to drive a nail with a screwdriver? If you

have, then you can see the ineffectiveness of using the wrong tool. Instead of using the Bible to try to solve the problems which we have created for ourselves because of our wickedness, we have developed our own solutions, our own rules, our own guidelines, which we believe will lead us out of our sinful predicament.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that the scriptures are all we need. Why can't we be satisfied with that? What could be more simple? Yet, man's selfish pride won't allow him to think that there may be a way other than the one he has devised! Why must we complicate the building when the only effective tool is within our grasp?

However, there is another way in which this same idea can be applied to our Christianity. How do you teach people? Do you make a plan? Do you follow some well-thought-out strategy, some line of reasoning, some "plan of attack," or do you just wait to see what happens? We should try to use the right tools when it comes to teaching people.

Sometimes, it requires that we be very, very careful to not insult their religious beliefs, while some are more open to a direct discussion of religious differences. Sometimes we need to take a hard stand upon some issue and be strong in its defense, and in other cases we need to use more tact and avoid seeming too dogmatic and biased. One of the first things a Speech student learns is to analyze his audience and adjust his strategies accordingly. And so it should be with any teacher. You do not approach a hostile audience in the same way that you would approach a sympathetic audience.

Among those that we endeavor to teach, some will be open-minded and somewhat sympathetic, while some will be hostile and closed-minded. You can't just go out and throw an open Bible in the face of a person and tell him that he's going to hell if he doesn't obey what you're teaching him! There is so much solicitation in the world today that most folks will automatically reject that kind of approach. Wouldn't you? Do you ever hang up on telephone salesmen who are over-bearing and rude? Even if you

don't hang up on them, do you listen open-mindedly? What, then, is the difference between that salesman and the over-bearing Christian? To most people, there is none.

The Lord recognized the different tools one can use to teach others. At times, He simply forgave instead of condemning (as with the adulteress in John 8), while at other times He was forceful and rebuked those whom He taught (as with the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 22 & 23). He realized the value of the word as a sword (Hebrews 4:12) and as a guiding light (Psalm 119:105). He used the right tools.

We have the proper tools at our disposal in the Word of God. We can use them to be more effective in our faith and teaching. It makes the job a lot easier.

-via *Perry Hill Road Bulletin*; Montgomery, Alabama



Whose Problem Is It?

Frank Himmel

Paul appointed elders in the churches of Galatia at the end of his first preaching trip there (Acts 14:23). Yet in his letter to those churches, when he got to the subject of erring brethren he wrote, "*Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burden, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ*" (Galatians 6:1-2). More than the elders needed to be involved.

The church at Corinth was rife with problems: wrong attitudes, immorality, false teaching, etc. Timothy, a young preacher, was on the way, but it was not his responsibility to fix everything. Paul addressed a letter to the entire congregation (1 Corinthians 1:2) in which he outlined what each one should be doing.

The church at Thessalonica faced signifi-

cant opposition from without. Whose job was it to encourage them? Everyone's. *"Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing"* (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Every Christians is a member of the body (1 Corinthians 12:27). A problem in the body is therefore everyone's problem. Elders, deacons, teachers, and preachers have their specific tasks. But let no one sit back and leave all the work to them. Get involved and help. As an old saying goes, "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem."

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



A Man And His Lord

Mike Wilson

According to Dr. Dean Ornish, there are two basic strategies often employed in the self-defeating search for happiness. In the first approach, the person becomes compulsively driven to distinguish himself from others. "The compulsively driven person's net worth is always on the line.... In the second approach, the person...creates a persona, a mask, an image to make people think that he did indeed achieve it. On one end of a spectrum, the persona has some basis in truth; on the other, it is a pure fabrication" (Dr. Dean Ornish's Program For Reversing Heart Disease, p. 978).

We men are particularly susceptible to these temptations. We want to abstain from anything perceived as wimpy, while we cling tenaciously to a macho image. Out of profound feelings of not measuring up - of not feeling lovable - we have perfected the art of projecting a masculine facade. The media has helped to stereotype this male persona with images of a man and his girl, a man and his wheels, a man and his dog, etc. When in popular culture has manhood been defined in terms of a man and his Lord?

There is something fundamental about the apostle Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 11:3. "But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man..." Just as woman has been assigned a subordinate role to man in God's order, so man's place in God's world is a place of subordination to Christ. Every man has a basic need to recognize the headship of Christ and heartily submit to his Lord.

Intrinsic to this faith commitment is the utter realization that we are not masters of our own destiny. There must be a personal forfeiture of all rights and prerogatives to lead our own lives as we please. True manhood is an all-out attempt to "attain the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

There is something in this that cuts against the grain of our natural tendencies, especially those which are culturally defined. We must let down the facade and admit that the true strength of manhood is not in ourselves. We are sinners in desperate need of help, and our Savior provides the only place of refuge. We must say, with the apostle Paul, "Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me...for when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

The inner strength that comes from total dependence on and submission to our Lord will make us men in the fullest sense. Without this subordination to Christ, we will never enjoy unanimity of spirit. We will never be whole. Real men are New Testament Christians. Jesus Christ fills the void.

-via *Christiaity Magazine*; July 1995; Vol. 12 No. 7

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Marcia Cooper* is in the ECM hospital in Florence following a stroke she suf-

ferred on Thursday. She is in CCU...**Trent Thornton** has not been able to be at services as he has been recovering from having his wisdom pulled... **James McConnell** was sick this past week and has not been able to be at services ...**Jonathan Keenon's father, Glen Keenon**, is the Decatur General hospital... **Jimmy and Charles Glass's sister, Janice Moody**, continues at home recuperating from her surgery to repair a broken hip ...**Brooke Phillips' grandfather, Bill Maner**, is at home and not doing well...**Myrtie Williams** continues in Glenwood Convalescent Center in Florence ...**Onzell Tucker** continues at home with her compression fractures ...**Lawinda Keenon** was sick and unable to be at services this past week...**Jamie Mosley** was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night...**Erica and Carson Crunk** have been sick this past week and were not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night...**Samuel and Harrison Phillips** have been sick and unable to be at services this past week...**Lisa Word** was sick this past week and has not been able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... **Abby Chancellor** was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick over the weekend ...**Signa Skipworth, Catherine Parker & C.L. Weathers' cousin, Hilda Fincher**, is now at her home ...**Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette.

SONG SERVICE: This evening at 6:00 will be the time for our regularly scheduled song service. Mark McIntyre will be directing the service. I hope that everyone will make their plans to be present.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: This evening will be the time for Communication Group B to meet. If you are in group B, remember to meet with your group this evening.

THE RECORD: Attendance—Week of Dec. 9th
Sunday:

Bible Classes 81
Morning Worship 96
Evening Worship 70

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 78

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

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