

NEWS & NOTES

THE SICK: *Jack and Onzell Tucker* continue to be confined at home. ~ Buffy Wallen's grandmother and James McConnell's aunt, **Nadine Thompson**, is in the Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home in Killen. ~ Eric White's father, **Jim White**, continues his cancer treatments. ~ Steven Crunk's niece, **Abby Vandiver**, is seriously sick with a blood, disorder. ~ Judy Williams' mother **Flossie Kazzaire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette ~ **Jerry Dickey** is continuing to receive cancer treatments. ~ **Frances Resse**, Aric Butler's grandmother, in Brookings, Oregon is very sick with lung cancer. ~ **Erica Crunk** continues her recovery. ~ Willodean and Wynell's Brother, **Clifford Kelley** is in VA home in Huntsville and is critically ill. **Others on the sick list include:** **James Campbell**, Virginia Lovell's father ~ **Helen Trousdale**, is not well enough to get out. ~ **Michael Clemmons** has been ill. ~ **Scottie Goode** has been ill. ~ **Brooke Blakely** has been sick. **Aaron Andrews** is home from the hospital and is continuing his recovery. There may be others that I am not aware of. Remember all the sick in your prayers.

OTHER NEWS: Preaching today in Aaron's absence is **Kevin Chancellor** (AM), and **Cecil Cox** (PM). ~ Don't forget to vote for your Top 5 Men of the Bible! The "polls" will close in 2 weeks.

GOSPEL SINGING: The **Cartwright** church in Elkmont, AL is having a singing at 2:30 PM today.

COMMUNITATIONS GROUP: Tonight after our evening service will be the meeting time for "Group A". If you are in this group, be sure to attend this meeting.

FOR THE RECORD: (Week of November 30th)

Sunday:
 Bible Classes ???
 Morning Worship ???
 Evening Worship ???
Wednesday:
 Bible Classes ???

Schedule of Services

Sunday
 Bible Classes9:45 AM
 Morning Worship10:45 AM
 Evening Worship6:00 PM
 3rd Sunday Evening.....3:30 PM
Wednesday
 Bible Classes7:00 PM

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
 Aaron C. Andrews...(256) 247-5068
 Office...(256) 247-5539
 email: aaronandrews@me.com

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

Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation..." **Romans 1:16**

December 7, 2008
 Volume XV No.49

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 For the Week of Dec 7th:

BIBLE CLASSES
Song Leader – Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading – Rodney McCrary
Deuteronomy 29:1-9
Prayer – Aric Butler

MORNING WORSHIP
Song Leader – Mark McIntyre
Prayer – Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding – Kevin Chancellor
Assisting – Phil Pressnell
Serving – Brian Blakely, Mark McCrary, Billy Wallen, Daniel Clemmons
Closing Prayer – Cecil Cox

EVENING WORSHIP
Song Leader – Eddie J. Hammond
Bible Reading – Brad Hammond
Deuteronomy 29:10-21
Prayer – Scottie Goode
Lord's Supper – Kevin Chancellor, Phil Pressnell
Closing Prayer – Rocky Rose

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASSES
Song Leader – Ronnie Phillips
Prayer – Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading – Daniel Clemmons
Deuteronomy 29:22-29
Invitation – Michael Clemmons
Closing Prayer – Kevin Chancellor

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE TWELVE SPIES

Ken Weliever

After the children of Israel were freed from Egyptian bondage and delivered from Pharaoh's army, they began their journey toward Mt. Sinai. In the wilderness God provided food, water and protection. When they arrived at Sinai, they received the law that would govern them as a nation and the pattern for the tabernacle regulating their worship. After being numbered and organized, they were now ready to enter the land of promise.

However, it seems that the people originated the idea to search the land (Deut. 1:20-23). God agreed to it and told them to "spy out the land" and see how the people lived, how strong they were, and what the land looked like. After forty days, the spies returned and admitted Canaan was a wonderful land, but expressed doubt they could conquer these strong people. Two of the spies, Caleb and Joshua, objected and said, "we are well able" to take the land. However, the majority prevailed and Israel wandered in the wilderness another 38 years while an entire generation died.

This account from Numbers 13 and 14 should be very familiar to most readers. But the question is: What do we learn from it? Concerning the problems of Israel Paul wrote: "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (1 Cor. 10:11). Regarding our approach to studying the Old Testament Paul also penned: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15:4). So what example is set for us in this account? What admonitions do we receive? What lessons do we learn from the twelve spies?

Two Attitudes

The outlook of the ten spies was not very bright. Their report was one of gloom. They could only see the problems instead of the possibilities, the giants instead of God and defeat instead of victory. The inspired writer called it "an evil report" (13:32). Their attitude could certainly be called negative.

On the other hand, Caleb and Joshua, were very optimistic. Their report was one of hope. They saw the possibilities instead of the problems, God instead of giants, and victory instead of defeat. God said Caleb "had a different spirit" (14:24). Yes, it was different from the ten spies because it was positive instead of negative. Today, in the world and in the church, we still have these two groups of people. Some can see the good in people, opportunities to spread the gospel and the disposition that says "we are able." While there are others who can only see the bad in people, the flaw in any idea and say "we are not able."

Traits of the Ten Spies

Let us look a little closer into this negative attitude of the ten spies and see what traits composed their character.

(1) Doubt. They said, "We are not able" (13:31). Doubt caused them to question their resources to take the land, as well as their God who was leading them.

(2) Self-depreciation. "We are in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight" (13:33). They saw themselves as teeny, tiny, little grasshoppers about to be squashed by the big, bad giants.

(3) Fear. Joshua indicates in 14:9 that they were afraid. Fear naturally follows doubt and self-depreciation. Fear then will paralyze one and keep

him from acting.

(4) Critical spirit. When people become negative and inactive, they turn to criticizing others who want to move forward. The whole congregation was influenced by these terrible ten to murmur and complain against God's leaders, Moses and Aaron (14:1-2).

(5) Rebellion. The preceding attitudes contributed to the spirit of rebellion against God. They said, "Let us make a captain and return to Egypt" (14:4). Can you imagine being on the brink of the promised land, and then wanting to return to the land of slavery?

(6) Ingratitude. Implied is also a spirit that was not thankful for their blessings. They failed to appreciate all that God had done for them in the two years after leaving Egypt.

(7) Unbelief. All of these negative traits can be summed up in one word - unbelief. The writer of Hebrews 3:18-19 says that unbelief kept them from entering Canaan.

Brethren, doesn't it scare you to death to look at this list and see so many of these negatives in the church today attitudes that hold us back, that divide our ranks, that cause us to wander in the wilderness of sin and keep us from entering the land of promise. Several years ago James P. Needham wrote a very fine article that described negativism this way: "There is no place in the Christian's life for negativism, yet this is the persistent attitude of many. It constantly talks down the great work of God. It is a prophet of doom, gloom and boom! It says nothing is useful or beneficial, no, not gospel meetings, Bible classes, etc., etc. Everything proposed is a waste of time, effort, and especially money! That's the most important. Negativism is not realistic, but

materialistic. Negativism is an elephant on the road to progress; a millstone around the neck of usefulness; a cancer of the mind of its advocate; and ice pack on the fervor of the faithful. It sees thorns on the rose bush, never the roses on the thorn bush. Its parent is little faith, its child is discouragement, its grandchild is cantankerousness and its first cousin is stubbornness!"

Caleb and Joshua

These two men were "different." They had a different disposition, a different focus on life, and a different attitude toward God and his work. What were some of the attributes of their attitudes?

(1) Faith. They said, "We are well able to overcome" (13:30). They believed in themselves, in their fellow Israelites and most importantly in their God.

(2) Confidence. Concerning the Canaanites Joshua said, "The people are bread for us: their defense is departed from them, and the Lord is with us" (14:9). They had the confidence in the outcome of this undertaking, because they knew they were doing the will of God.

(3) Courage. Joshua said, "fear them not" (14:9). He was not afraid of the giants, the walled cities or the strength of the people.

(4) Action. Caleb said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it" (13:30). Positive people say, "Let's go and do it now!"

(5) Thankfulness. They understood the land was a gift from God, a blessing due to his delight in them (14:7-8). True appreciation for one's blessings will lead to action and obedience.

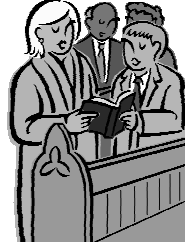
Today, as we face the giant problems of sin, suffering or sickness in our personal lives or the apathy,

indifference and cowardice in the lives of our brethren, we need the positive traits of faith, confidence, and courage, coupled with action and an appreciation of God's blessings to lead us on to victory.

Conclusion

Numbers 3:32 tells us there were 603,550 men of war. Of that number only two, Caleb and Joshua, entered into Canaan. 603,548 fell in the wilderness. Jesus said only a "few" will enter and walk the strait and narrow way leading to life, while many will walk the broad way leading to destruction (Matt. 7:13-14). Will you and I decide to develop the disposition like God's two heroes of old? Or will we be like those shameful spies who brought back the negative report? Don't be a whiner! Be a winner for God! - *Guardian of Truth XXXII: 6, pp. 163-164, March 17, 1988*

Join us for a
GOSPEL SINGING



December 21, 2008
at 3:30 PM.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

A weak faith is weakened by predicaments and catastrophes whereas a strong faith is strengthened by them.