

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, January 6th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Bible Reading (Num. 28:17-25)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
Presiding Phil Pressnell
Assisting Aric Butler
Serving Michael Word
..... Brad Hammond
..... Mark McCrary
..... Jonathan Keenon
Closing Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Num. 28:26-31)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer
..... Brian Word
Lord's Supper
..... Phil Pressnell
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Volume XV

January 6, 2008

No. 1

Preaching Jesus

David A. Cox

There are many people in the religious world today that say “We need to just preach Jesus, and forget about the church and the plan of salvation.” Their thoughts are that preaching Jesus should be “about the man and the plan.” It is agreed that we must be preaching the good news of Jesus Christ and the world of His saving grace for that is God’s plan for saving man (1 Corinthians 1:18; Romans 1:16). Our emphasis in preaching and teaching must be the same emphasis as in the first century or else we will cease the practice of New Testament Christianity. All we need to do is to go to the Bible and read what kind of preaching was done under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The Day of Pentecost

The first example of preaching is seen in Peter’s sermon on the day of Pentecost. In Acts 2, we have Jews gathered from every nation at Jerusalem to keep the feast of Pentecost (Acts 2:5). Peter preached to them about Jesus Christ and who he was (Acts 2:14-36). After the conclusion of Peter’s sermon, those that heard were pained immensely for their sins and asked, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Peter told them to “repent and be baptized everyone of you for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:37-38). Peter was preaching Jesus. If preaching Jesus did not include repentance and baptism, then Peter would not have preached it. But preaching Jesus did include these commands. Jesus taught the necessity of these commands. “I tell you Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). The command Jesus gave just before He ascended to heaven. “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15-16). As a result, Peter preached Jesus and included these com-

mands that Jesus taught that were necessary for the forgiveness of sin. As a result of Peter preaching Jesus, we read, “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41).

The Preaching To The Samaritans

Another example is in Acts 8. After the persecution arose against the church the Christians “were all scattered abroad throughout the regions...they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word” (Acts 8:1,4). In verse 5, we are told that Philip “went to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them” (Acts 8:5). Philip was preaching Christ and confirming the word he preached by performing miracles. “When they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized” (Acts 8:12). Even a man that had used sorcery and bewitched the people of Samaria believed and was baptized (Acts 8:13). Here in the city of Samaria, Philip preached Christ or Jesus. After believing what Philip was preaching was the truth from God they were baptized.

The Ethiopian Eunuch

After the conversion in Samaria, Philip came into contact with a man, the Ethiopian treasurer, on the road to Gaza. This man had been to Jerusalem to worship God. He had travelled many miles and was reading from the prophet Isaiah while returning home. The prophesy which he was reading was about Christ, but he did not understand of whom Isaiah was speaking and he inquired of Philip to see if could give him an answer. “Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus” (Acts 8:35). Here again we have Philip preaching Jesus. As they went along the road they came upon some water and the Ethiopian said, “See, here is water what doth hinder me to be baptized?” As a result of Philip preaching Jesus, the Ethiopian learned of his need to obey the commands of the Lord and desired to be baptized.

The Corinthians

Another example of one preaching Jesus is

Paul. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, “And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:1-2). Paul was describing the time when he first came to Corinth and preached “Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” In Acts 18, we have recorded the time that Paul is referring to in First Corinthians. We are told that Paul reasoned with the Jews and the Greeks in the synagogue testifying to them that Jesus was the Christ. In verse 8 we read, “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized” (Acts 18:8). Remember Paul said that his only concern when he came to Corinth was to preach Christ and Him crucified. Paul did just that, he preached Jesus and those convicted of the message obeyed the commands of the Lord.

Application

These examples of preaching Jesus show that to preach Jesus means to preach Him completely. If one were to teach you about Abraham Lincoln, what would one need to teach you about him? If you are going to know Abraham Lincoln it would be necessary to talk about him. Not just his death, but his birth, what he did, what he accomplished and what he stood for. That is exactly what those in the first century did when they preached Jesus. Their preaching involved everything about Jesus, His love, His compassion, His righteousness, His judgement, His birth, His death, His resurrection, His church and His plan to save man. As Peter, Philip and Paul preached Jesus, they did not stop short of telling men completely about Jesus. They were not ugly or hateful, but told men because of their love for their souls.

Today, we need to be sure we are preaching Jesus. Making him the focus of the message because that is exactly what we see they did in the first century. The preaching of Jesus then pricked the hearts of men and they responded overwhelmingly to obey (Acts 2, 8, 18).

What Kind of Flood?

Edwin L. Crozier

I have heard Bible believers debate the flood. I use the term “Bible believers” loosely here, because some of these so-called believers can’t seem to accept the Bible for what it says. Genesis 6:17 says, “I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die” (ESV). That is plain. God said He would flood the earth and destroy all living things on it.

That, however, is not palatable to some. Perhaps they can’t believe God would actually do it. Perhaps they can’t believe such a feat is possible in the natural world. Perhaps they believe there is not enough “scientific” evidence for it. They want to make the Bible digestible for the masses, so they say, “It was a local flood around the Black Sea.”

These believe they are performing a noble task. More people will accept the Bible if they think the flood was local instead of a cataclysmic world event. Thus, they think they are being evangelistic, performing God a service by clearing up this difficulty. On the surface, I appreciate that these are trying to help people believe the Bible. However, when I scratch beneath the surface, I wish they would stop their incessant and inane babbling.

They are not helping God’s cause or the Bible. Instead, they are making the Bible out to be nothing but lies and contradictions. Who can believe the Bible if their assertions are correct?

Aside from not taking the Bible at its word, these “thinkers” have produced a lie in the Bible. If Genesis 6:17 was hyperbole to show how awful the sin was and how serious God’s judgment was, then Genesis 9:11ff is the same exaggeration. God’s point in Genesis 9 is He will never again do what He did in Noah’s day.

He set the rainbow in the sky as a reminder of His covenant. Every time we see a rainbow,

we can remember God’s power in the destructive flood and His promise not to do it again. Further, we can remember He has promised to destroy the world with fire (cf. 2 Peter 3:8-13). But not if these so-called believers are correct.

If they are correct, every time we see a rainbow, we are reminded God lies. If this was about local floods, God lied. I have one word here—Katrina.

People should cease trying to make the Bible more palatable to the masses. Either accept what it says and live by it or reject it. Don’t say you accept it and then twist it to fit what you think you really can accept. In the end, you will only make God out to be a liar and yourself a fool.

God did destroy the earth by flood and He does plan to destroy the earth by fire. Let’s not twist it to be more acceptable. Let’s accept it and live it.

—via *Franklin Church Bulletin*, Franklin, Tennessee.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Marcia Cooper* was moved to NHC rehabilitation this past week in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. She is in room 133... *C. L. Weathers* has had terrible headaches this past week and not able to be out ...*Laura Clemmons* has continued to be sick and unable to be at services. She is scheduled to have tubes put in her ears soon ... *Abby Chancellor* has been sick and was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *James and Freda McConnell* were both sick this past week and were not able to be at services ... *Lawinda Keenon* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Samuel, Molly Kate and Harrison Phillips* have been sick this week and have not been able to be at services ... *Jonathan Keenon’s father, Glen Keenon*, is at home now and is dealing with his congestive heart failure ... *Angie McCrary’s uncle, Royce Newton*, is in the Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville after suffering severe burns recently...*Myrtie Williams* continues in Glenwood Convalescent Center in

Florence ... *Brooke Phillips' grandfather, Bill Maner*, is at home and not doing well...*Myrtie Williams* continues in Glenwood Convalescent Center in Florence ...*Jack and Onzell Tucker* continue to be confined at home ...*Steven Crunk's niece, Abby Vandiver*, is in Children's Hospital in Birmingham and is seriously sick with a blood disorder ...*Judy Williams' father* had two stints put in on Thursday. He is doing well and recovering at home ...*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.

GWANDA, ZIMBABWE: We sent the shipment of food and other items to the brethren in the church at Gwanda, Zimbabwe this past week. We will be continuing to collect and will be making another shipment in a couple of weeks. Let us remember this effort.

ELDERS/DEACONS MEETING: There will be an elders and deacons meeting this afternoon at the building.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Wallens: Billy, Buffy, Anthony, Ethan, Emma, Ella and Ivy* are in Tennessee this weekend...*The Hammonds: Eddie and Willodean* are on vacation in Florida.

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

VOLUME 15 BEGINS: With this issue Volume 15 is beginning. It has been my privilege to be the editor for the last twelve and a half years. I appreciate all of our readers and the comments I receive from you. I hope and trust that through this year the *Gospel Power* will be an encouragement, and strengthen and help to you as you study the word of God. If you ever have any comments or questions, I would be glad to receive them.

THE RECORD: *Average Attendance 2007*

Sunday: Bible Classes 98
 Morning Worship 116
 Evening Worship 86
Wednesday: Bible Classes 86

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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