

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, February 10th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Num. 31:42-54)
..... Scottie Goode
Prayer
..... Brian Word

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Mark McIntyre
Assisting Andrew Gatlin
Serving Jim Phillips
..... Corey Goode
..... Tyler Cox
..... Rodney McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Blakely

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Bible Reading (Num. 32:1-5)
..... Rocky Rose
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey
Lord's Supper
..... Mark McIntyre
..... Andrew Gatlin
Closing Prayer
..... Jonathan Keenon

Volume XV

February 10, 2008

No. 6

Want Real Happiness?

Ken Weliever

Helen Keller once observed, "Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes real happiness. It is not obtained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose." If Helen Keller were alive today, what would she think?

Modern-day advertising offers us happiness simply by buying the right car, soft drink or deodorant. Our society is saturated with promises for immediate happiness and instant gratification. In fact, we are infatuated with it. People believe that they have the "right" to be happy. One mental health expert, Dr. Darold Treffert, cited many teen problems on what he calls "The American Fairy Tale." Two of the five tenets of this theme are (1) More possessions mean more happiness and (2) A person is abnormal unless constantly happy.

The unrealistic image of life often portrayed in movies, on TV and, ironically, in "reality shows," only reinforce this popular myth. Too many of our young people have bought into the message and think something is wrong with them if they are not happy all the time.

What people often fail to realize is that the real happiness that Helen Keller referred to is based on responsibility. Dee Bowman once wrote, "I see a lot of people who are unhappy and don't know why. I am convinced that oftentimes it's because they aren't doing what they know they ought. You can't be fulfilled and derelict at the same time."

Actually "real happiness" is what the Bible calls joy. The happiness of the world is based on externals and depends on circumstances. Joy is based on internals and found in Christ. Paul calls it the "joy of faith" (Philippians 1:25) and exhorts Christians

to “rejoice in the Lord” (Philippians 3:1). Jesus promised the apostles “true happiness” when He said, “these things I have spoken to you that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full” (John 15:11).

King David, a man after God’s own heart, spoke often of this “true happiness” in the Psalms. He wrote about the “joy of salvation” (Psalm 51:12), joy in the presence of God (Psalm 16:11) and joy in worship (Psalm 27:6). He rejoiced in righteousness, God’s goodness and in going into the house of the Lord. He was happy because he greeted each day with this spirit. “This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24). We would be happier by developing this attitude.

It is no accident that Luke would write David’s epithet this way. “For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers...” (Acts 13:36). David’s life was about fidelity to God and a worthy purpose.

“Real happiness” is found in Christ and fulfilled in following His purpose for you, which was decreed before the foundation of the world. Want real happiness? Find your purpose and fulfill your duty.

-via *The North Jasper Seeker*; Jasper, Alabama.



Gospel Meeting

March 30-April 4, 2008

(Sunday – Friday)

Frank Jamerson, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

The Time For Teaching

John Gipson

A farmer removed an old beech tree which grew on his land. The woodcutter noticed on the bark some curious marks which looked like the letters J.L, roughly cut and below them some ornamental design. After the tree was cut and was being divided into lengths, he was startled to find on the hard dry wood at the core of the tree, the clearly cut letters J.L. on a dark background, and below them an anchor. Upon inquires, it was found that the letters were the initials of a sailor named John Leland. There were 37 rings between the letters and the bark of the tree. He inferred that the letters must have been cut in 1653, and his belief was confirmed when he learned that it was in that year that the sailor had spent some time in the area. The inscription had not only remained in the place where it was cut at the first, but as each year added to the growth of the tree, the letters still appeared on the surface, scarcely legible there, it is true, but perfectly clear at the core.

The same thing is true with human character. Many an old man, in spite of the rough usage of the world and the scar of time and trouble, bears upon his walk and manner of life marks which were put there in childhood.

When you read the second chapter of Exodus it is apparent that someone taught Moses to: have sympathy with the slave; despise injustice; know the folly of anger; and to defend the weak. I think I can see the loving influence of his mother behind all these acts.

When I look at Timothy, the companion of the apostle Paul, and see the faith and dedication, I am reminded of the teaching which had been done early in Timothy's life by his mother and grandmother.

The training we receive in early life we will carry with us to the grave. It's important, therefore, that our children are taught the right things now. We must not neglect golden opportunities.

-via *Susquehanna Sentinel*; Marietta, Pennsylvania.

According To Your Faith

Grant B. Caldwell

Jesus said, "According to your faith let it be to you." (Matthew 9:29). When Jesus was confronted by two blind men who followed Him, "crying out and saying, 'Son of David, have mercy on us!'" (verse 27), He asked them if they believed that He was able to do this. Their reply was "Yes, Lord!" (verse 28). "Then He touched their eyes and made the statement of our text.

Faith and Healing — There are times in the life of Christ when the healing He performed was in relation to the faith possessed by the one requesting the blessing. In Matthew 8:13, Jesus said, "As you have believed, so let it be done for you." The centurion had said that Jesus did not need to go to his house, but to merely "speak a word, and my servant will be healed" (Matthew 8:3). It was in this way that Jesus healed his servant. That is, He did not come to the centurion's house. In our present text, their faith was that if Jesus would "have mercy" they would be healed. That is precisely what happened. While it is true that the healing was often linked to one's faith, the healing was not dependant on faith. In Matthew 8:26, the disciples had little faith. And yet, the miracle was accomplished. In Matthew 9:24, a dead girl was raised. No faith on her part!

Faith Healers — To say that faith is required before healing can be accomplished is to go beyond the record for such miracles. The only time in the New Testament a duly authorized miracle worker ever failed to perform the miracle intended was in Matthew 17:14-20 and that was because of the unbelief of the ones attempting to work the miracle. It was not because of the unbelief of the one receiving the miracle. If a person today claims to be a divine healer and fails to accomplish the miracle, he demonstrates that he does not have either authority or power from God to work miracles. Modern faith healers are not able to perform bona fide miracles. They heal only psychosomatic ailments. They heal those only naturally over the course of time and

not miraculously as any physician knows. When they are confronted with a genuine, verifiable, organic ailment, they fail to accomplish the healing. This is when they blame their inability on the lack of faith of the one with the need. Can you imagine Jesus or the apostles ever blaming a person because they could not accomplish the healing. Where did He ever say, "I am only the messenger of God. I can't help it if they don't believe"?

Faith and Spiritual Healing — To be healed spiritually of our sins, however, it is not enough to believe Jesus is able to heal. We must believe in His method of healing. The gospel is the power to save (Romans 1:16). It is imperative that we believe the gospel and obey its terms (Mark 16:15-16). Only then will we receive spiritual sight and be saved.

-via News & Notes; Madison, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Marcia Cooper* continues in NHC Scott Center in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee for her rehabilitation. She is in room 111... *C.L. Weathers* is at home now following his recent hospitalization ... *Brian Word* was sick this past week and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Wanda Tucker* has been sick this week and has not been able to be out... *Janice Glass* has been sick this week and has not been able to be out... *Harrison Phillips* has been sick with RSV and has not been able to be out ... *Molly Kate Phillips* was sick this past week, but was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Lawinda Keenon* is doing better after having been sick for the last few weeks ... *Austin and Audrey Goode* were both sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Trent Thornton* was not able to be with last week due to not being able to be up... *Carson Crunk* was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after

being sick ... *Jerry Dickey* was able to be with us last Sunday after having trouble with asthma ... *Cindy Pressnell's mother, Nancy Hagood*, had knee replacement on Wednesday in Huntsville and is doing well ... *Jonathan Keenon's mother, Mary Cecil Keenon*, had a stint inserted in her heart on Thursday in Huntsville and is doing well ... *Brooke Phillips' grandfather, Bill Maner*, is at home and not doing well... *Jack and Onzell Tucker* continue to be confined at home ... *Eric White's father, Jim White*, is continuing his cancer treatments ... *Steven Crunk's niece, Abby Vandiver*, continues chemo treatments for her blood disorder ... *Signa Skipworth, Catherine Parker & C.L. Weathers' cousin, Hilda Fincher*, continues at her home ... *Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette.

GWANDA, ZIMBABWE: Remember we are continuing to collect food and other items to send to the brethren in the church at Gwanda, Zimbabwe. Let us remember this effort.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Parkway church* near Caddo in Lawrence County is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening with services at 7:00 p.m. *Lonnie Oldag* will be the speaker in this meeting.

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

OUT OF TOWN: *The Hammonds: Eddie and Willodean* are in Florida on vacation.

THE RECORD: Attendance – week of Feb. 3rd
Sunday:

- Bible Classes 71
- Morning Worship 78
- Evening Worship 76

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 77

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

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

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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