

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, March 9th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Bible Reading (Num. 35:1-8)
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Steve Parker

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jimmy Glass
Assisting Andrew Gatlin
Serving Jim Phillips
..... Jonathan Keenon
..... Corey Goode
..... Rodney McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Tyler Cox
Bible Reading (Num. 34:7-15)
..... Rocky Rose
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey
Lord's Supper
..... Jimmy Glass
..... Andrew Gatlin
Closing Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips

Volume XV

March 9, 2008

No. 10

"Except Ye Be Converted"

David A. Cox

In Matthew 18:3 we read, *"Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."* Jesus makes it clear, if we are to enter heaven, we must be converted. What does this mean?

Conversion Is A Change

Christ is speaking of the change of one from being a non-Christian to a Christian, a turning from serving sin to serving God. When Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica, speaking of their conversion, he said, "ye turned to God from idols to serve the living God" (1 Thessalonians 1:9). At Lystra, Paul preached to the people of that city that they should "turn from the vanities unto the living God (Acts 14:15). Paul's preaching was intended "to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith" (Acts 26:18). In other words, Paul's preaching was done with the intension of converting his hearers. This is vastly different from much of the preaching done in the religious world today. Many today will preach to others trying to bring them to Christ, but not provoke any change whatsoever in the lives of those that hear. This was not the preaching done by Paul or by Peter (Acts 2) or any of the disciples of Christ in the first century.

One might ask, why was the preaching in the first century intended to produce change or to convert? Jesus only heals spiritually those that are converted (Matthew 13:15). "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19). The blotting out of sins comes to those who are converted or who forsake their wickedness and return unto Him (Isaiah 55:7). This makes it clear that the reason for preaching and teaching others is to convert them to God and His way that they

might be saved.

How Is One Converted?

The question is asked, "How is one converted?" The Bible teaches that man is an intelligent being and responsible for his decisions (Matthew 23:37-38). God does not force conversion upon men. Each individual must make his own decision and has an active role in his conversion (Mark 16:16). Man's decision to turn to God and obey Him will cause conversion to begin in his life (Romans 6:1-6).

The change takes place in the heart of man. Until man is convicted of what is right and wrong, no real changes will take place. The change of heart has to do with the mental processes of man (Matthew 9:4; Mark 2:6). Man needs to change his thinking in order to really bring about change in his life. It is with the heart that man believes the righteousness of God (Romans 10:10). It is this reason that Jesus said to be careful what our treasure or priorities are, "For where your treasure is there will your heart be also" Matthew 6:21). It is when one's heart is changed or converted that they will truly "present their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God" (Romans 12:1).

Examples of Those Converted.

There are numerous examples throughout the New Testament of people whose hearts were changed (converted). Let us notice a couple of the examples.

First, remember the Jews that were gathered at Jerusalem for Pentecost (Acts 2). Among those Jews gathered on this occasion included many of the same Jews that had denied that Jesus was the Christ. They mocked Him to the end, they crucified Him on a Roman cross. In verse 11, Peter preached to these Jews and reminded them of the prophecies of Christ, they saw how through the preaching of God's Word those things were so. They were convicted, repented and obeyed the Lord's command to be baptized (Acts 2:11-41). In the following chapters in Acts they suffered many things for the cause of the very Christ they had crucified. But why? Because they had been converted.

The second example is the apostle Paul or Saul of Tarsus. In Acts 7, he was among the Jews that were stoning Stephen (Acts 7:58). He was relentless in his persecution of the Christians, consenting to their deaths, hauling them to prison, and seeking approval of bringing Christians back to Jerusalem to persecute them (Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-2). In Acts 9, Saul journeyed to Damascus and was blinded and convicted that Jesus was truly the Christ and was baptized (Acts 9:3-18; 22:5-16). After being baptized, we find Saul who is now known as Paul, fearing for his life, imprisoned, stoned, beaten time and again all for the cause of Christ. What happened? This man was a persecutor and highly esteemed in the Jewish religion, but obeyed Christ and began suffering persecution. It is all because he was converted to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul spoke so well of his conversion when he wrote, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

The fact of the matter is that we must all be converted if we are going to enjoy the bliss of heaven. We are going to have to determine that we are going to obey God and Christ, regardless of the circumstances we are in. We are determined to remain faithful till the end. Conversion is life changing and a life saving experience. Have you been converted?

Gospel Meeting

March 30-April 4, 2008

(Sunday – Friday)

Frank Jamerson, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

Don't Be Hoodwinked!

Allen Dvorak

Our word “hoodwink” is actually a falconry term. We use it to mean “to deceive,” but Webster notes that the word also means “to blind by covering the eyes.” The falconer must hoodwink his falcon. In the beginning of training, the bird rides hooded on his owner's arm. The hood allows the bird to adjust to the sound of his owner without being frightened by the sight of him. Later the hood is removed and even the noise of many people does not intimidate the bird.

However, the bird quickly learns to dislike the hood and begins to dodge as the falconer attempts to replace it. And so the falconer places a small piece of meat in the hood and the falcon puts his head nearly all the way into the hood to get the meat. The bird gets the meat, but he also gets hooded!

An over-fed or “fed-up” (another falconry term) bird is hard to train, so the falconer can not use meat every time he hoods his falcon. He leaves the meat off one time, the falcon looks for the meat...and gets hooded for his trouble! If this continues, the bird soon learns that he gets the hood but no food! When he begins dodging the hood again, the falconer entices him with meat on the other side of the opening for the beak in the hood. The bird hoods himself as he goes for the meat which, incidentally, he does not get to eat! He has been hoodwinked!

Many people get “hoodwinked” by Satan. He does not use a literal hood, but he does entice them into the darkness of sin by empty promises. We are tempted when we are enticed by our own desires (James 1:13-15). Just as the falconer lures the bird with meat, so Satan appeals to our desires. The falcon never intends to get hooded; he just wants the meat. We never intend to become the slaves of sin; we just want to fulfill our fleshly desires.

The “meat,” of course, varies with different individuals. For some, it is the pleasures that

money affords. Satan holds out the promise of prosperity and men willingly engage in dishonesty, neglect of family, and other sinful behaviors to seize the meat. Often they find themselves cloaked in darkness, punished by the consequences of their behavior (1 Timothy 6:9). For others, the lure is sexual pleasure. Fornication by the unmarried, affairs among the married, pornography - Satan “hawks” the pleasures of these activities, but the end of such behavior is darkness.

The Bible warns of the consequences of grabbing after the “meat” of fleshly lusts - they “war against the soul” (1 Peter 2:11). I do not believe that falcons think, “Rats, hooded again! And where is the meat he promised?” However, men and women often regret being lured into sin and darkness. Don't allow yourself to be “hoodwinked” by Satan!

-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...*Lisa Word's father, Austin Dillinger*, is not doing well at his home in Orlando, Florida...*Faye Hammond* having with fluid levels. Her doctor have determined that she has a kidney stone and she is to return to the doctor on Monday...*Charles Glass* has not been able to be with us this week due to not feeling well...*C. L. Weathers* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be out...*Corey Word* was sick and unable to be at services Wednesday night...*Buffy Wallen's grandmother and James McConnell's aunt* has been suffering mini strokes and is at home...*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.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *the family of Earl McPeak*. He is the father of *Robby McMcPeak* that we support in Mobile and *Carlton McPeak* that we have support in the past in Georgia. The funeral was on Saturday in Athens.

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

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.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Coxes: Cecil and Jackie* are in Russellville today. Cecil is preaching for the Centerview church today...*The Dickeys: Jerry, Charlotte, Justin and Brandon* were out of town this past weekend and are back at home.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Old Moulton Rd. church* in Decatur is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Services will be each evening at 7:00. *Frank Jamerson* will be the speaker in the meeting ...The *Isbell church* in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Services will be each evening at 7:00. *Johnny Richardson* will be the speaker in the meeting.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of Mar. 2nd
Sunday:

Bible Classes 94
Morning Worship 110
Evening Worship 85

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 83

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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