

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.

Volume XV

April 6, 2008

No. 14

**Anderson
church of Christ**
5900 Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

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Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 6th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Deut. 1:1-8)
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Brain Blakely

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Lord's Supper
Presiding Scottie Goode
Assisting Jimmy Glass
Serving Corey Goode
..... Jim Phillips
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Deut. 1:9-18)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Kevin Chancellor
Lord's Supper
..... Scottie Goode
..... Jimmy Glass
Closing Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips

Don't Jump To Conclusions

Allen Dvorak

Elkanah, father of the Old Testament prophet Samuel, had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah (1 Samuel 1). Peninnah had children, but Hannah was barren. In a mean-spirited way, Peninnah "provoked" Hannah because of her infertility. When Elkanah and his wives went up to the house of the Lord to worship, Hannah prayed silently to God, vowing that if He would give her a son, she would give that child to the Lord all the days of his life.

The priest Eli observed Hannah praying, seeing her mouth move, but not hearing her words. Eli concluded that Hannah was drunk and rebuked her, saying, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!" When Hannah explained that she was praying with great grief, Eli recognized his error and blessed her.

We all fall prey to Eli's mistake from time to time. In order to make sense of the world around us, it is necessary for us to assign meaning to the actions of others. We observe someone's behaviour and we frequently draw conclusions about that person based on their action. Actually we respond to the meaning that we assign to the action rather than the action itself. And sometimes, like Eli, we make assumptions which are invalid. Even if we succeed in being objective in our judgment, frequently there is more than one possible explanation for one's behaviour. Eli's inappropriate rebuke was the result of his error in assigning meaning to her action.

It is not difficult to see how all this applies to us. A friend or neighbor does something and we begin assigning reason to their action. "He said that for the purpose of hurting me." "She did that just to spite me." "I know that she said that about me, even though she didn't mention me by name." Often the truth is that the speaker had no such motives. Unfortunately, friendships are

sometimes destroyed because someone made unwarranted assumptions about another's actions or speech.

This danger of making unwarranted assumptions also exists in our study of the Scriptures. It is easy to insert our own thoughts as we decide what the Bible is teaching us. If we are not careful, we will accept the opinions of other men without realizing that the Bible does not actually say such things. For an excellent illustration of this, ask your friends what kind of forbidden fruit Adam and Eve ate in the Garden of Eden. Why, an apple, of course! Where does the Bible identify the kind of forbidden fruit? We must differentiate between God's speech and our assumptions.

How can we avoid this pitfall of accepting incorrect conclusions? With respect to the Word of God, the careful Bible student will read and re-read the Word. He will test his religious convictions by that which he has read. Avoiding unwarranted assumptions could possibly save some friendships and perhaps our soul also.

-via *News & Notes*, Madison, Alabama.



Imitating Christ In Attitude

Daniel Bailey

In Philippians 2:5, the apostle Paul instructs the Christians in Philippi to "let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." The New International Version translates this command a bit more clearly: "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."

If a person were in a particularly grumpy mood, perhaps complaining about an aspect of their job that grates on their nerves, a coworker might say, "You need an attitude adjustment." This common phrase simply means that if the situation were viewed from a different, more objective viewpoint, maybe things wouldn't seem

so bad.

That's what Paul instructs Christians to do: adjust your attitude to imitate that of Christ. We must strive to look at our lives and the situations we find ourselves in through the eyes of Christ; we need to adopt His attitude and outlook.

There are many scriptures to which one could turn to examine the attitude of Jesus in various situations. For example, in John 11, Mary and Martha send word to Jesus that their brother Lazarus is very sick. Christ makes known to His disciples that He will raise Lazarus from the dead ("wake him up") so that they will believe in Him, and He will be glorified as the Son of God (John 11:4,11,14). But even though Jesus knows He has power over death, when He sees Lazarus' sisters and friends lamenting and weeping over his death, Jesus weeps, too. Jesus wept because He was moved with compassion—He felt their pain and their sorrow.

Likewise, Christians are instructed to be compassionate toward one another. In Romans 12:15, the holy apostle writes, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." Even if the sorrows and stresses that afflict our brethren don't seem that important to us, we need to adjust our attitudes and always be ready to encourage one another and bear each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2).

Perhaps most importantly, we need to imitate Jesus' attitude toward serving God. In John 8:29, Jesus told the Jews that He would only do those things that please the Father. This attitude of humble obedience led Jesus to pray to the Father before He was betrayed, "not My will, but Yours, be done" (Luke 22:42). Even though Jesus had the power to refuse the will of His Father, pleasing Him was His number one priority, even though it led Him to the cross.

God gives all people the free will to make their own choices about serving Him—we can either accept the entirety of His will, or we can reject it completely; there is no middle ground. There may be some aspects of living for Christ that just don't thrill you. There may be aspects

of worship or serving others that you'd rather just leave alone or change to fit your own desires. But if that's the case, God expects you to improve your attitude. God commands His children to imitate the attitude of Christ, and this includes bending your own will to humbly submit to Him in all things.

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



Persecution & Perversion

Edwin L. Crozier

Peter's two letters are among the most practical of the New Testament writings. He addressed the two major problems Christians have always and will always face. 1 Peter deals with persecution from without and II Peter with perversion from within.

Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:12, "All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (ESV). Persecution can range from ostracizing to verbal slander to downright physical attack. Though we may sometimes feel like second-class Christians because we haven't been through the extremes of persecution, each form carries its own share of fear, distress and discouragement.

Peter's basic premise for overcoming persecution is to remember who we are. We are a separate called out people, set apart by God's mercy to proclaim His excellencies (1 Peter 2:9-10). As such, we should not be surprised when the worldly are surprised by our conduct (1 Peter 4:4, 12). Instead of being shocked, and therefore discouraged, we should expect it. In fact, what should be truly discouraging is if no one ever persecutes us in any form. Further, we need to love and support one another. It is easy to say we shouldn't be discouraged, it is another thing to actually avoid discouragement. Thus, we need to have others upon whom we can rely for love, support and encouragement (1 Peter 4:8-11).

Persecution is obvious. Perversion of Christ's truth from within is not. While II Peter 2 provides a disturbing picture of false teachers, it provides a picture of how they appear to God, not necessarily to us. If false teachers were as obvious as this chapter makes them seem, they probably wouldn't be much danger to any of us. As it is, they often present themselves as sheep (Matthew 7:15).

Peter provides one essential point for overcoming false teachers—personal growth. We begin with our faith and we add virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection and love. Further, we are not satisfied with our present status in any of these. Instead we constantly increase them all. Only then will we assuredly be provided with an entrance into God's eternal kingdom (2 Peter 1:11).

Recognize what this means. We are responsible for our growth. We cannot blame these false teachers if we are led astray. We are responsible to increase our faith, knowledge, etc. We are responsible to be more like Jesus. As Peter concludes the letter, we are responsible to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But when we do grow, nothing can separate us.

We must grow and remember who we are. Then we will be unstoppable in Christ's kingdom.

-via *Franklin Church Bulletin*; Franklin, Tennessee.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Marcia Cooper* is in NHC rehabilitation in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. She is in room 111... *Amy Newton* was sick and unable to be services last week ... *Billy Wallen* was sick and was not able to be at services last week ... *Lydia Clemmons* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be at services

... **Sanda Martel** was sick and unable to be at services last weekend ... **Molly Kate Phillips** is to have her tonsils and adenoids removed on Friday ... **Lisa Word's father, Austin Dillinger**, is at home now and is dealing with his congestive heart failure ... **Jack and Onzell Tucker** continue to be confined at home ... **Billy Wallern's grandmother, Alvis Hooie**, is undergoing cancer treatments each week ... **Eric White's father, Jim White**, continues his cancer treatments... **Brooke Phillips' grandfather, Bill Maner**, is at home and not doing well... **Buffly Wallen' gandmother and James McConnell's aunt, Nadine Thompson**, is in the Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home in Killen ... **Steven Crunk's neice, Abby Vandiver**, is in Children's Hosptial in Birmingham and is seriously sick with a blood disorder ... **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: Remember the work we are involved in helping our brethren in the church at Gwanda, Zimbabwe. We are making shipments of non-persihable food items to them. Let us remember this effort.

OUT OF TOWN: **Sanda Martel** has been out of town this week with her work.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The **Helton Drive church** in Florence is beginning a meeting today and will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Joseph Casimier** will be the speaker in this meeting...The **Sardis Springs church** in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday eveing with services at 7:00. **Bob Buchanon** will be speaker in this meeting ...The **College Place church** in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Jerry King** will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: Attendance Week of March 30th

Sunday: Bible Classes 105
Morning Worship 127
Evening Worship 114
Wednesday: Bible Classes 90

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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