

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, April 20th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Bible Reading (Deut. 2:1-7)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Brian Word

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Rocky Rose
Assisting Brian Blakely
Serving Jim Phillips
..... Mark McCrary
..... Tyler Cox
..... Daniel Clemmons
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Deut. 2:8-15)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... Cecil Cox
Lord's Supper
..... Rocky Rose
..... Brian Blakely
Closing Prayer
..... Steve Parker

Volume XV

April 20, 2008

No. 16

The Kingdom of God

Randy Harshbarger

In His teaching, Jesus frequently used the term, the kingdom of God. Early in Matthew's gospel, both John the Baptist and Christ came, announcing the soon-to-be-established kingdom. "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). Jesus was teaching "the gospel of the kingdom" (Matthew 4:23). Faith and repentance were important aspects of Jesus' announcements about the kingdom. Mark 1:15 says: "And saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Sometimes Jesus used the phrase, the kingdom of heaven, instead of the kingdom of God. Since the two terms are used interchangeably, the right conclusion is that there is no significant difference in their meanings. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:10). "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you" (Matthew 12:28). The kingdom is a heavenly kingdom. It originates in heaven, its character is heavenly, its laws are spiritual. The law of the kingdom is the will of God. To be part of the kingdom on earth is to be where God's will is respected and obeyed.

Prophetically, kingdom has a rich history. The Jews had high Messianic expectations. They anticipated a coming kingdom. Many Old Testament passages teach this. "Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:3). There are too many prophecies to place in this article (read Isaiah 52:7; Jeremiah 23:5; 33:17). A familiar "kingdom" proph-

ecy is Daniel 2:44. "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Daniel and other Jews were in Babylonian captivity. Surely they desired to return home and once again function as God's people (see Jeremiah 29). In the New Testament we find the Jews expecting an earthly kingdom and an earthly king who would overthrow the oppressive Roman government (John 6:15). Did a passage such as Daniel 2:44 contribute to that kind of understanding? While the proper understanding of Daniel 2:44 is a spiritual application in the establishment of Christ's spiritual kingdom, it is also true that the Jews did secularize many Old Testament, Messianic expectations.

Old Testament prophecies about the kingdom are rooted in the rich relationship between God and His people. God was among His people—a theocracy. Israel belonged to God; they functioned as His kings and priests. "And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel" (Exodus 19:6). The language Jesus used in describing the kingdom was familiar to the Jews; His teaching was designed to draw people to His rule. So, why did the Jews reject Him?

—via *Stallings Drive Bulletin*; Nacogdoches, Texas.



Vacation Bible School

July 13-18, 2008

Frank Richey, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

Worthy To Be Loved

Gary Henry

"I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart." Psalm 40:8

Why do we love God? Is it because His attributes so often result in benefit to us personally or because He is simply worthy to be loved? Do we love God for His sake or for our own?

An utterly honest appraisal of our hearts will often reveal that our seeking of God has been more a seeking of certain blessings from God rather than a seeking of God Himself. Very few of us are not indicted by these words from Thomas Merton: "They respect God as a Master. But their heart does not belong to Him. They are not really interested in Him, except in order to insure themselves against losing heaven and going to hell. In actual practice, their minds and hearts are taken up with their own ambitions and troubles and comforts and pleasures and all their worldly interests and anxieties and fears. God is only invited to enter this charmed circle to smooth out difficulties and to dispense rewards."

But a "true love of God must begin with a delight in his holiness" (Jonathan Edwards). Our devotion to God must be akin to Job's. Although Satan sneered, "Does Job fear God for nothing?" (Job 1:9), the truth was that Job's faithfulness reached far beyond the benefits he had been receiving from God. When every other reason was stripped away, Job did what was right simply because it was right. He loved God because God deserves to be loved.

It may help to try to look at love from God's side. Can we imagine our plight if, in deciding whether to love us, God had ever asked the question, "What's in it for Me?" If any part of His love depended on our ability to "help Him solve His problems," there would be no love! Apparently, He loves us because we are His creatures, simply for our own sake. And we are to love Him because He is our Creator, simply for

His own sake. Love's joy has to do with giving, not getting. The moment our main focus shifts from the Beloved to ourselves, true joy begins to disappear. "Give me, good Lord, a longing to be with you, not to avoid the calamities of this world, nor so much to attain the joys of heaven, as simply for love of you" (Thomas More).

-via *Hueytown Bulletin*; Hueytown, Alabama.



Obedience

T. Doy Moyer

A French officer once asked George Washington's mother how she managed to rear such a splendid son. She simply replied, "I taught him to obey."

Obedience is something that must be taught. Characteristic of the perilous times in the last days is that there will be those who are "disobedient to parents" (2 Timothy 3:2). The whole idea of rebellion against parents and authority is ungodly.

Children are told to honor their father and mother, obeying them in the Lord (Ephesians 6:1-2). If they refuse to obey, they will answer for it.

As children of God, it is our duty to obey God (Hebrews 5:9). Really, to those who love God with all of their hearts, obedience to His commandments will not seem burdensome (1 John 5:3).

We are a people who seem to want to get our own way in all things. However, without submission to God and His will, we will find sorrow and destruction. Let us resolve to be what God wants us to be.

-via *The South End Expounder*; Louisville, Kentucky.

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Marcia Cooper* is in NHC rehabilitation in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. She is scheduled to come home on Monday... *Corey Word* is now at home after spending a few days in the Hillside Hospital in Pulaski with pneumonia ... *Molly Kate Phillips* has been sick this past week ... *Laura Clemmons* has been unable to be at services due to being sick with the flu ... *Lisa Word's father, Austin Dillinger*, is at home now and is dealing with his congestive heart failure ... *Sarah Blakely's uncle, Leo Bowen*, is very sick at his home in Ohio ... *Jack and Onzell Tucker* continue to be confined at home ... *Eric White's father, Jim White*, continues his cancer treatments... *Brooke Phillips' grandfather, Bill Maner*, is at home and not doing well... *Buffy Wallen's grandmother and James McConnell's aunt, Nadine Thompson*, is in the Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home in Killen ... *Steven Crunk's niece, Abby Vandiver*, is in Children's Hospital in Birmingham and is seriously sick with a blood disorder ... *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 made a shipment of non-perishable food items to the brethren there this past week.

PREACHING TODAY: In my absence today, *Cecil Cox* will be preaching this morning. I know you will be glad to hear him. I appreciate him filling my place while I am away.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Billy Wallen* and *all the family*, in the passing of Billy's grandmother, *Alvis Hooie*, this past Monday. The funeral was Wednesday in Rogersville.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Butlers: Aric, Andrea and Arica* are now back home after being in Oregon visiting Aric's grandparents... *The Blakelys: Sarah, Hayden and Brooke* in Ohio this week visiting with family... *The Crunks: Steve,*

Erica and Carson are on vacation in Texas this week... **The Gatlins:** Steve and Theresa are on vacation in Texas this week... **The Coxes:** Kerry, Tyler, Hunter and I are in Ardmore today where I am preaching in a meeting at the *Hollings' Gin church*.

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.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Hollings' Gin church* near Ardmore is beginning a meeting today and will continue through Wednesday. The speakers for the meeting will be as follows: *Sunday Morning—David Cox; Sunday afternoon—Norm Webb, Jr.; Monday evening—David Deason; Tuesday evening—Frank Walton; Wednesday evening—Kasey Harbin.* Services Monday through Wednesday will begin at 7:00 p.m... The *Jones Road church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening with services at 7:00. *David Thomley* will be the speaker in this meeting ... The *Caphaw church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening with services at 7:00. *Lee Wildman* will be the speaker in this meeting ... The *Pettusville church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and will continue through Wednesday. The speakers for the meeting will be as follows: *Sunday Morning—Eugene Britnell; Sunday afternoon—Everett Conn; Monday evening—Phillip Owens; Tuesday evening—Greg Tucker; Wednesday evening—Lance Taylor.* Services Monday through Wednesday will begin at 7:00 p.m... The *First Street church* in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Andrew Roberts* will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: Attendance Week of April 13th

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 88
- Morning Worship 106
- Evening Worship 69

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 64

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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