

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, May 4th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Deut. 3:12-22)
..... Steve Parker
Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
Presiding Kevin Chancellor
Assisting Jimmy Glass
Serving Jim Phillips
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Mark McCrary
..... Tyler Cox
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Deut. 3:23-29)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey
Lord's Supper
..... Kevin Chancellor
..... Jimmy Glass
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Blakely

Volume XV

May 4, 2008

No. 18

Does It Make Any Difference?

David A. Cox

When talking to people about religious matters and what the Bible teaches, it is often you will hear someone say, "It doesn't make any difference what one believes and practices." The thought is that all who are religious are going to heaven; what is believed and practiced in their life is of no significance. We must ask, "Is this true?" Does it make any difference what one believes and practices?"

The Scriptures Teach What We Believe Makes A Difference

Without doubt, the scriptures affirm that it makes a difference what is believed to please God. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). As we look at this verse, we notice that it places an importance on what one believes "...for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him." Two things are stressed about the faith of the one that pleases God:

1. He must believe that God is. He must believe that God exists. The Psalmist declares "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handwork." Believing that God is means to believe in the existence of God, understanding the power which He possesses over the creation and the honor, glory and allegiance that belongs to Him.
2. God's rewards are for those that believe that God is, but it is also required that they diligently seek after Him.

In answer to the question, "Does it make any difference what we believe? Yes it does, One might believe in God and who He is but if he fails to seek God then he will not please God for his faith

will be lacking some of the things God requires.

It Matters What We Practice

Some may believe that God is a loving God who will not allow anyone to be lost and spend an eternity in hell. It is true that God is a loving God (John 3:16) and He does not want anyone to be lost (2 Peter 3:9; John 3:16), but as we have noticed, God is a rewarder of those that have faith and diligently seek His will. Even though God loves and desires all men to be saved, He will only save those whose faith is practiced according to His will (Matthew 7:21). Let us notice a couple of examples mentioned in Hebrews 11.

Noah

In Genesis 6:8, we are told Noah was one that “found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” The record also says, “Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations and Noah walked with God” (Genesis 6:9). What we learn of Noah is that God was pleased with him. Why? Because he was a righteous man and that he “walked with God.” This implies that Noah was one that diligently sought after the Lord’s will. But what are we told Noah did by faith that pleased God? “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith” (Hebrews 11:7). The example of Noah’s faithfulness is given in the building of the ark. In Genesis 6, we have the instructions given to Noah as to how God wanted the ark built. Specific instructions were given as to the size, the number of levels, the kind of wood to be used, the one window and the one door. Concerning Noah and these instructions we read, “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he” (Genesis 6:22). It is with that faithful adherence to God’s will that Noah pleased God and was found faithful.

Abraham

In Romans 4:3 we are told, “Abraham believed in God and it was counted unto him for righteousness.” What caused Abraham’s faith to be a faith that pleased God? The Hebrew writer says, “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive

for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went” (Hebrews 11:8). At the command of God to offer up his only begotten son, Isaac, he obeyed (Hebrews 11:17-19). Paul described the kind of life that Abraham lived as one that “staggered not at the promise of God...but was strong in faith” (Romans 4:19-20). It was Abraham’s faithful practice to the things that God told him to do that caused Him to be pleasing to God.

What Is The Application?

Surely, all would agree that it made a difference in what Noah and Abraham believed and practiced. As a matter of fact, what they believed determined what they practiced. They believed that “God is, and that God is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him.” For this reason they diligently sought the will of God and faithfully obeyed Him and did what He told them. No one surely would think that Noah would have pleased God if he had changed the instructions he was given to build the ark, or if Abraham had determined that it didn’t matter what God told him to do concerning leaving his homeland and the offering of Isaac as a sacrifice. If Noah or Abraham had rebelled and not done what God told them, they would have displeased God. Nadab and Abihu are examples of such when they offered fire to the Lord “that he commanded them not” (Leviticus 10:1-2) and were consumed by the fire for their disobedience.

With this in mind, we must recognize that it does make a difference what we believe and practice. Let us look diligently to God’s word and do what God tells us to do to please Him. In God’s plan to save man, let us accept that faith (Hebrews 11:6), repentance (Luke 13:3), confession (Romans 10:9-10), baptism (Mark 16:16) and living a faithful life (Revelation 2:10), makes a difference if we are going to please God. May we continually look to God’s word for what pleases Him, not to others and their opinions, or to what we desire and like.

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

The Lure of The Easy Way

Dan S. Shipley

“And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: if this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.” (1 Kings 12:26,27)

Whether or not Jeroboam’s fears were well founded is uncertain. However, of one thing we can be sure. He was more concerned about the people’s loyalty to him than to God. To accomplish his aims, he shrewdly baits his trap with something that entices most all men — the lure of the easy way. He told them, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem...”. Little did it matter, apparently, that he gave them idols, pretended priests and pagan worship. The important thing was that he provided them with an easy religion — and that overshadowed all else. They became victims of the easy way.

Many are the mortals who have succumbed to the lure of the easy way, both spiritually and otherwise. Our advertising agencies have learned the devil’s sales pitch well. They tell you how to lose weight — the easy way. They offer easy ways to quit smoking, to achieve physical fitness or financial independence. People haven’t changed much since Jeroboam’s day. They still fall for the same old bait, “the easy way”, and in doing so have filled the prisons, swelled the welfare rolls and lengthened unemployment lines (Not to mention the irretrievable waste of time, talent and potential).

And, as in Jeroboam’s day, the easy way is still a popular way in religion. The prospects of having to “go up to Jerusalem” (or even across town) is still too much for too many. They would take the denying self out of following Christ; the giving diligence out of seeking approval; and the striving out of entering in at the strait gate. Such would have the benefits without

the bother. As Jesus says of others, “They have their reward.”

As might be expected, even the Lord’s church has been touched by the lure of the easy way. It is felt in our teaching program when preachers and teachers find it “too much” to make adequate preparation of their lessons and when Bible class students find it “too much” to study and prepare assigned work. It affects our visitation program when members find it “too much” to leave their comfortable homes and TV programs to call on the sick or unfaithful. It affects our personal evangelism program when brethren think it “too much” to try and teach others the way of salvation. It affects the purity of the church when we think it “too much” to finally discipline the unruly among us. Of all things that contribute to the weakening of the church, none is more influential than taking the easy way.

The narrow way can never be the easy way. Not only are the ways different, they lead to different destinations (Matthew 7:14). “Going up to Jerusalem” may require self-denial, sacrifice and hard work but it’s the way of the cross — and that leads home.

~via *The Cornerstone*; Richmond, Virginia.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Faye Hammond* is in the Huntsville Hospital, room 634... *Molly Kate Phillips* recieved a good report from the test done last week ...*Brooke Phillips’ grandfather, Bill Maner,* is in the Parkway hospital in Decatur. He is in ICU ... *Lisa Word’s father, Austin Dillinger,* is at home now and is dealing with his congestive heart failure... *Marcia Cooper* is now at home ... *Jack and Onzell Tucker* continue to be confined at home ...*Eric White’s father, Jim White,* continues his cancer treatments... *Buffy Wallen’s’ grandmother 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 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. I received a note from a member there this week expressing their appreciation for what has been sent.

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.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The **Hays Mill church** in north of Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening with services at 7:00. *Greg Chandler* will be the speaker in this meeting ... The **Beulah church** in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening with services at 7:00. *Carrol Sutton* will be the speaker in this meeting ... The **Valley View church** in Limstone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening with services at 7:00. *John Gibson* will be the speaker in this meeting ... The **Pleasant Valley church** in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. They will have different speakers in this meeting.

THE RECORD: Attendance: Week of April 27th

Sunday: Bible Classes 109
 Morning Worship 116
 Evening Worship 68
Wednesday: Bible Classes 80

Vacation Bible School
July 13-18, 2008
 Frank Richey, Speaking
Anderson church of Christ
 Highway 207 South
 Anderson, Alabama

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
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