

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 11th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Bible Reading (Deut. 4:32-40)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Kevin Chancellor

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Prayer
..... Steve Parker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Andrew Gatlin
Assisting Mark McIntyre
Serving Michael Word
..... Mark McCrary
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Jim Phillips
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Deut. 4:41-49)
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
..... Andrew Gatlin
..... Mark McIntyre
Closing Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Volume XV

May 18, 2008

No. 20

Proper Perspective

Dee Bowman

“Perspective” was originally the science of optics. It is now used in conversation to describe a mental view or disposition; it’s how one views life. For this little piece, perspective is your viewpoint about life.

How we view life is vital to our happiness as well as to our eternal destiny. May I offer a few suggestions about a good perspective?

Begin by getting a proper view of life. Culture is a poor measuring stick. Look around you. People everywhere are more interested in being somebody than in being a good somebody. They have elevated success to such a high place that character and excellence don’t seem to matter. Society rules. It calls the shots. It’s more interested in money than character, more concerned about leisure than accomplishment, more dedicated to pleasure than piety.

And we are immersed in a cult of youth. Today, if you’re old, you’re of no account. You sort of get in the way. Look at the advertising—television, magazines, newspapers, billboards—they’re all recommending youth as the main ingredient in a contented life. If you’re old, you’re ugly, so buy creams that make you look young (even though you’re not). If you’re old, you don’t understand, so just keep quiet and let the young, knowledgeable intellectuals speak. Furthermore, if you’re old, you’re out of date, out of touch, and you would do well to just get out of the way. And what ever happened to wisdom, having been “down the road”? Worldliness has replaced wisdom.

Take a more serious view of life. Soberness is the best way to view life. “It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to

the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart,” we are told in Ecclesiastes 7:2. Now that doesn’t mean that you go around with a sad look as if you’re on the way to a funeral all the time, but it does mean that a serious-minded person is one that has deduced what life is all about, that it’s short at best, and that life, after all, is mostly a probationary period during which we are to equip ourselves for the really superior life reserved for the faithful. That’s reason for being serious, don’t you think?

Listen to the right stuff. Yes, I said, listen. There is great value in learning to listen. We are within the mark when we use the terminology “pay attention.” It suggests that we owe our attention. “Take heed how you hear,” Jesus said in Luke 18:8. Listening is so important; and the right kind of listening imperative. We sometimes listen to the wrong things. We elevate the inferior to a place of the superior. One of the most obvious displays of that is seen in our propensity for listening to gossip. We almost relish in it. Why is it that we listen attentively to the wrong things and tune out the right? We need to learn to listen to the right things. There’s great benefit in that. “Don’t take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant curse you” (Ecclesiastes 7:21). If we don’t listen to the wrong things, we won’t be so often upset.

View God’s wisdom as the standard in your life. God’s ways are always superior. People in this age seem to think that God’s word is out of touch with reality, that it has no practical value for living in today’s world. Nothing could be further from reality. It still “thoroughly furnishes a man unto every good work” (2 Timothy 3:17), just as it always has. It’s still “quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12), just as it’s always been, and it’s still true that there is “one that judgeth,” He says—“the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). Without the word of God we are lost at sea with no compass. When we try to direct our own path, we not only look hopelessly foolish, we are hopelessly foolish. “It is not in man to direct his

own steps” (Jeremiah 10:23) is as true today as the day it was first penned by the prophet.

Realize that God has a plan. He has a plan for man’s salvation from sin, as well as for his continued faithfulness. He has revealed to us His true nature—not only his love, but His wrath as well. He has shown us in Jesus Christ an example of the quality life, one dedicated to service to both God and man. He has given us a mutual encouragement in the church, one that edifies, inspires courage, ennobles, and gives us an abiding hope. He has given us faith to know, hope to anchor, and love to hold everything together. He has marriage laws; then laws for husbands and wives. He has laws for rearing children, as well as laws for children being reared. He has laws regarding integrity—in business, in pleasure, in duress or peace. And He has given us assurance of great rewards, rewards so wonderful they defy understanding, much less adequate description.

How do you view life? It’s up to you what perspective you choose, you know.

~via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.



Planting Time

Mark W. White

The wise man said, “*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted*” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-3). Right about now is a good time to plant. Balmy breezes of Spring will soon turn over to soft summer air. Just about everywhere people are planting flowers, trees, vegetables, and sowing grass seed. Planting is the start of something new, something filled with great expectations. The seeds that have lain dormant all through the winter months are springing back to life.

Planting time reminds us that it is always time to sow the seed of the Kingdom. There is no time to begin, no time to stop. We have an incorruptible seed (1 Peter 1:23) which is the word of the kingdom (Luke 8:11; Matthew 13:19). Sowers in the kingdom must be “*instant in season and out of season*” (2 Timothy 4:2).

As workers in the kingdom today, let each of us be reminded of the urgent duty we have to spread this vital message. God’s people once heard the stinging rebuke, “Is the seed still in the barn?” (haggai 2:19). Seed never does what God intends for it until and unless it is sown into the hearts of sinners.

Are you sowing the seed of the kingdom, brother?”

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama



You Could Be Rich

Allen Dvorak

Many of us have probably received that familiar piece of mail with Ed McMahon’s picture on it and which announces that “*You may have already won 10 million dollars.*” This represents for many people the dream of a lifetime, to win the grand prize in a sweepstakes. The advertisement always says that we can now buy that big, beautiful house we have always wanted. In the advertisement is also what looks like an expensive sports car with the bold-lettered message underneath that says “*You Could Buy This Car With Cash.*” Often what dominates all the colorful pictures is a large scene of Disney World (to which most will attest that winning a sweepstakes is the only way a family of four can afford to go). But just as the advertisement begins to work its magic on us, making

visions of wealth spin before our eyes, reality rears its ugly head. Careful reading tells us that we have not actually won yet and we have only a 1 in 2.5 zillion chance of winning! For many, however, this is the only way to become extremely wealthy. For even more of us, the truth is that we do not even know someone who knows someone who has won such a sweepstakes. And so the hope of becoming extremely rich subsides as quickly as it came.

Christians are already rich, having received true wealth rather than alluring but unlikely promises. Not only do they presently enjoy all spiritual blessings in Christ, but they are heirs to an eternal and incorruptible inheritance (Ephesians 1:3, 11; 1 Peter 1:3-4). They are like children who are in line to inherit the tremendous wealth of their parent. We all know what happens when a wealthy man’s will is about to be read. People claiming to be his relatives appear out of thin air because they know that blood relationship can put them in line for part of that inheritance. Romans 8:14-17 says that those who are God’s children are joint heirs with Christ and stand to receive an inheritance. But this inheritance could never be adequately illustrated or described with colorful pictures of cars and houses. It is not a sports car. It is not ten million crisp, green dollar bills. It is spiritual and its value is beyond our imagination.

Unfortunately, many people are more interested in cars, houses and the other things that money can buy and so they overlook this spiritual inheritance. They may send back their sweepstakes numbers in the vain hope of winning but neglect to take advantage of the spiritual blessings which could be theirs for a certainty. Very few will win the grand prize in the sweepstakes, but the day will surely come when God will give His children their inheritance. Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23 that many will try to claim relationship on that day, but only those who are truly God’s spiritual children, those who submit to His authority as Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

News & Notes

THE SICK: *C.L. Weathers* is undergoing tests on his colon ... *Molly Kate Phillips* has been to the doctor in Nashville this week ... *Faye Hammond* is at home now ... *Lisa Word's father, Austin Dillinger*, is at home now and is dealing with congestive heart failure... *Marcia Cooper* is now at home ... *Jack and Onzell Tucker* continue to be confined at home ... *Buffy Wallen's grandmother and James McConnell's aunt, Nadine Thompson*, is in the Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home in Killen ... *Eric White's father, Jim White*, continues his cancer treatments... *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 will be packing and sending a shipment this week.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Chancellors: Kevin, Laurie and Abby* were away last week. Kevin is back home, but Laurie and Abby will be away for a couple of weeks.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY: Beginning today, *Brian Blakely* will be making pictures for our new pictorial directory. I hope that everyone will get their pictures made quickly so that we can complete this project soon.

PREACHING NEXT SUNDAY: The elders have scheduled *Phil Ryan* to preach here next Sunday. Phil is being considered for the work here. I hope that everyone will make your plans to be present.

THE RECORD: Attendance: Week of May 11th
Sunday:

Bible Classes 79
 Morning Worship 98
 Evening Worship 66

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 66

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
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 Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
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