

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, June 15th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Deut. 7:17-26)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... Cecil Cox

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Scottie Goode
Assisting Brian Blakely
Serving Jim Phillips
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Hunter Cox
..... Michael Word
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Deut. 8:1-10)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Steve Parker
Lord's Supper
..... Scottie Goode
..... Brian Blakely
Closing Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Volume XV

June 15, 2008

No. 24

How Do You Approach Things?

Matthew Allen

Our attitude is the primary force that will determine whether we succeed or fail spiritually. How do you approach things? Do you often see difficulty in every opportunity, or do you see an opportunity in every difficulty? Our attitude determines the approach we take in leading our spirituality. Adopting a healthy attitude is essential for our spiritual lives! Paul is a great example in this when we consider how he overcame his past and examine the optimistic view he held on his future.

1 Timothy 1:13-15 treats us to the grimy details of Paul's past. He was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Later he writes, Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. Paul had a terrible background to overcome. After his conversion, he possessed an extreme desire to know Jesus in a greater way. Forgetting his past, Paul turned his passion into laying hold of Jesus. See Philippians 3:8-13. His attitude was essential for his spiritual success! We are responsible for our view of life. Whatever a man sows, this he will also reap, Galatians 6:7. Think about it. Your spiritual life is filled with infinite potential! Don't hold it back by a poor outlook on life and neglect of the precious spiritual blessings God so richly bestows.

Part of our problem today is that we have taken heed to the lie that life has to be fair, and if it is not, then it is an excuse to be sour on life. I hope we all grow to realize that life is not fair. While it is impossible to trim all situations and circumstances to fit our loves perfectly, it is possible to craft our attitude to fit every situation life hands us. We read, I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all

Intimacy With God

Randy Harshbarger

things through Him who strengthens me, Philippians 4:12-13. This is learned behavior. Developing a healthy attitude will influence our entire outlook on life. When confronted with a difficult situation, a person with an outstanding attitude makes the best of it while he gets the worst of it. It has been said, whether life grinds us down or polishes us depends on what we are made of. Consider for a moment the success of these men and the importance of their attitude:

- o Joseph – Genesis 39-42. Thrown into the pit, sold into slavery, jailed wrongly before coming to the throne to serve Pharaoh.
- o Moses – Exodus 2-3. He spent time in the wilderness before leading the people of Israel.
- o Peter – Matthew 26:69-75. Peter denied Jesus three times. Matthew 26 concludes by telling us he went out and wept bitterly. He could have allowed this failure to wreck his life. However, his attitude propelled him to rise out of the ashes of failure to become one of the leading apostles in the early years of the church. It has been said that the opportunities of life lie directly in our problems. Thomas Edison wrote, there is much more opportunity than there are people to see it. Use the problems that confront you as opportunities to grow your spiritual life and trust in God.

Christianity can be an extremely liberating experience. It frees us from the weight of sin and gives us a way to lead a focused and purpose filled life. An optimistic spirit can help us accomplish our spiritual goals. Remember, as long as we live, we are forming, changing, and reinforcing our attitude. You can change for the better! Are you aiming toward spiritual success? Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus, Philippians 3:12-14.

-via *New Living*; Brownsburg, Indiana.

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son” (Hosea 11:1). The constancy of God’s love should have been strong motivation for Israel to love their Creator in return. But it wasn’t. In spite of God’s constant overtures of love, grace, and mercy, His own children turned away. Israel perverted their relationship with God by worshiping idols. God loved His people, even when they were rebelling against Him. Yes, the Israelites had to suffer the consequences of their sin; this did not mean, though, that God had ever stopped loving them. Even when He was seeking to correct their way, God loved them.

The word *love* evokes pleasant and comforting thoughts. Or, at least it should. The Bible speaks often about God’s love for His creation. His love was present in the lives of His children—those who had responded to Him in obedience. Early in their history Israel wanted to be God’s children; they longed for an intimate relationship with God (Exodus 19:5-6). God called Israel “My firstborn son” (Exodus 4:22-23). God told Pharaoh, “Let My son go!” Israel was Jehovah’s special people. Yet, the fact that God loved Israel did not prevent them from rebelling. God’s love was not an insurance policy that would always keep Israel from harm—a harm that was many times self-inflicted. Over and over again, God enabled His people to see that He still loved them. He wanted them to come back.

The word *love* evokes thoughts of intimacy. The intimacy shared between a husband and wife is a special bond. That unique relationship is special. It mirrors the relationship God desires to have with His children (the book of Hosea; cf. Ephesians 5:22-33). This relationship is so special that severe, harsh consequences are meted out to those who fail to cherish the bonds of love and intimacy. “For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one’s gar-

ment with violence,” Says the LORD of hosts. “Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously” (Malachi 2:16).

The bond of love between brethren should be viewed as a special blessing. Love of the brethren is a special kind of love—love that is peculiar to the in-Christ relationship we share as members of the same spiritual family. Instead of living in isolation, we need to cultivate a sense of dependency, a sense of family among our fellow Christians. Loving each other is a matter of spiritual life or death.

Sin destroys the intimacy of love. This was true of Israel’s alienation from God. It is true in human, earthly families. It is true in the spiritual family of God. The alienating consequences of sin can only be overcome by God’s love. God through Christ seeks our reconciliation. What God desires for us cannot be experienced when we refuse to return. If that is so, then why do we stay away?

~via *Stalling Drive Bulletin*; Nacogdoches, Texas.



A Storm Shelter

Mark W. White

Longfellow wrote: “Into each life some rain must fall.” Rain may fall gently at times, however, it also falls furiously in times of storm. In our lives, there are many types of storms - physical, financial, emotional, spiritual, etc. - and they all vary in size and intensity. Storms are the common lot of all. Where can we turn when the storms of life rage? *“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his*

house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was the fall” (Matthew 7:24-27).

Into every life, sooner or later, the rains descend, the floods come, and the winds blow and beat. For one man the “house” of his life falls in ruins, while for another it stands secure. The power to withstand the storms of life depends upon the foundation of one’s life.

The house of the wise man withstood the storm because his house was built upon the rock. Jesus assures us that no matter what storms may arise, obedience to Him is the only sure foundation on which to build our lives - lives that will withstand the test of time and the Judgment to follow.

~via *College View Columns*, Florence, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Helen Trousdale* has been having blood pressure problems and has not been able to be at services ... *Lisa Word’s father, Austin Dillinger*, is at home now and is dealing with congestive heart failure... ... *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... *J. T. Word’s great grandson, Eric Jackson*, has moved to Atlanta for rehab. He continues to show improvement ... *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.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Words:* Lisa, Corey and Olivia are in Orlando, Florida .

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Eastside church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. *Greg Gwin* will be the speaker ...The *Jennings' Chapel church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting and it will continue through Friday evening. *David Hartsell* will be the speaker in this meeting ...The *Isbell church* in Russellville is beginning a meeting and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Don Miller* will be the speaker

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the night for Communication group C to meet. If you are in group C remember to meet with your group this evening.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY: *Brian Blakely* is finishing up the pictures for the pictorial directory. If you have not had your picture made, plan to get it made today.

THE RECORD: Attendance: Week of June 8th
Sunday:

Bible Classes 103
Morning Worship 115
Evening Worship 72

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 94



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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