

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, July 20th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Deut. 12:8-14)
..... Kevin Chancellor
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Rocky Rose
Assisting Brian Word
Serving Corey Goode
..... Brad Hammond
..... Rodney McCrary
..... Michael Word
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Deut. 12:15-25)
..... Brian Blakely
Prayer
..... Aric Butler
Lord's Supper
..... Rocky Rose
..... Brian Word
Closing Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin

Volume XV

July 20, 2008

No. 29

Wisdom and Youth

Marshall Reid

I remember it like it was yesterday. I was a teenager at Florida College, full of energy and life, feeling like I could take on the world. I was going to be successful. I was going to be somebody. I had so many things I wanted to do, places I wanted to visit, goals I wanted to accomplish. And considering just how smart I thought I was, there was no doubt all those dreams would come true.

Maybe you're at a similar stage in life, ready to spread your wings and take the world head on, making your own way. It may be you feel just the opposite, completely overwhelmed by what's ahead, not knowing what you want to do with your life, not feeling ready to spread your wings just yet.

The book of Proverbs is such a practical book. It can help you no matter in which of these situations you find yourself. One of the purposes of the proverbs, says Solomon, is to give "knowledge and discretion to the youth" (Proverbs 1:4). The American Heritage Dictionary defines discretion as "ability or power to decide responsibly". That's where most young people are lacking, and that's why the book of Proverbs is so important to the young. For those of you that are young, listen carefully to what he has to say and follow his advice. You will be glad you did for many years to come.

From the outset, he makes the point that **you need wisdom**. Although it's true you become wiser as you grow older and gain more experience, there are plenty of old fools in the world to show that's not all it takes. Wisdom is not the result of osmosis; it's the result of hard work. Notice all the action verbs Solomon uses to describe how you attain wisdom. He says you must "cry out for discernment," "seek her," and "search for her" (2:3-4). In 4:5, he says, "Get wisdom! Get understanding!" You must "take firm hold of instruction" (4:13). All these statements show that you must be active in your pursuit of wisdom, not passive. It takes effort.

However, the tremendous benefits far outweigh the effort.

What's so interesting about this search for wisdom is that wisdom wants to be found. She is calling aloud, begging people to listen (1:20ff). In the busy and loud market square, she's competing with all the other street hawkers who are trying to persuade you to buy their wares. Pay no attention to them. Open your ears and your eyes and call out for wisdom to make sure you find her and she finds you. Wisdom is the best product available on the market.

It's not just any wisdom that Solomon recommends. He makes the point repeatedly that **wisdom comes from God**. This is the wisdom for which the father wants his son to search diligently. Ten times, the fear of the Lord is equated with the beginning of knowledge, wisdom, or results that arise from its proper use. Worldly wisdom matters little in the grand scheme of things. However, wisdom from God gives knowledge and understanding so one can choose the paths that lead to righteousness and forsake the crooked paths that lead to wickedness (2:6ff).

People increase in worldly wisdom every day, but in the process they often become fools, rejecting the wisdom of God. People often think they are smart, when in reality they are ignorant. It stems from putting the wrong emphasis on the source of knowledge. When you are young, the world seems fresh, new, and exciting, and it can be easy to have the wrong perspective. It can be easy to observe those that have wealth, prestige, power, and education, and look to them as the source of knowledge and wisdom. But the first place you should look for wisdom is to God and His word. Doing so will lead to life and satisfaction (19:23). Solomon tells his son to trust in the Lord, not in his own understanding (3:5). Since the Lord is the source of all wisdom, that's the obvious place to start.

Parents are also a great source of wisdom, especially if they are faithful Christians. Remember, your parents were your age once, and as Solomon said in Ecclesiastes, "there is nothing

new under the sun." They've been through exactly what you're going through, which means they have a greater understanding of you than you give them credit for. The rules and decisions they make are grounded in the Word and are designed to keep your soul from the evil one. Heeding their instruction will give you "length of days and long life," and that will bring you peace as well as help you "find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man" (3:2,4).

Part of being wise is being humble. Isn't it ironic that Solomon's own son, Rehoboam, didn't heed to the precept of submitting to those who are wiser? Instead, he listened to his own youthful peers. Of course, that resulted in rebellion and in the Divided Kingdom. Listening to the instruction and advice of those who are older is highly recommended, and the first place to start is your parents.

The stage of life you are in can be one of the most exciting times, but it can also be one of the most difficult. Satan knows this and will exploit every possible means to make you stumble. Don't listen to his lies! "Get wisdom! Get understanding!" Your life here will be better for it, and so will your eternal life.

-via *Southside Sunday*, Pasadena, Texas.



*Join Us As We
Sing Songs of
Praise*

Congregational Singing

Friday, August 22, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

Stealing The Word of God

Billy Norris

Stealing is a grievous sin, listed along with other grievous sins. Those who practice such shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, *nor thieves*, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9,10).

One steals from God by withholding that which right fully belongs to God— by failing to give as he has been prospered (1 Corinthians 16: 1,2; Malachi 3:8-10).

One can even steal the word of God. God brought this charge against the prophets of Judah. “Therefore behold, I am against the prophets,’ says the LORD, ‘who steal My words every one from his neighbor” (Jeremiah 23:30). They stole God’s word by teaching the people their word rather than the word of God.

It continues today. Christ, with all authority in heaven and on earth, plainly said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). When one teaches salvation by faith only, he steals from the people what Christ actually said. Jesus said, “He who *believes* (but He did not stop there) *and is baptized* will be saved.” To teach that baptism is not essential to salvation is to make the same kind of mistake for which God condemned the prophets of Judah.

The epistle of James gave Luther, with his salvation by faith only concept, a world of trouble. He called it a pile of straw. It is still giving advocates of Luther’s doctrine a world of trouble, for James said, “You see then that a man is justified by works, and *not by faith only*” (James 2:24).

Paul said, “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands

what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need” (Ephesians 4:28). If this is good counsel in regard to material matters, how much more in spiritual matters when multiplied millions in every generation are in need of salvation!

Do not rob the lost of the word of the Son of God that tells them what they must do in order to be saved from sin and its dreadful consequences.

Do not forget what God said to the false prophets of Judah: “‘Therefore behold, I am against the prophets,’ says the LORD, ‘who steal My words every one from his neighbor” (Jeremiah 23:30).

-via *Gospel Guide*; Vol. 35 No. 8; August 2003

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Faye Hammond* is to have a MRA done on Friday to check the arteries in her neck ... *Austin & Audrey Goode* were sick last weekend and were not able to be at services Sunday. They were better and able to be at VBS during the week ... *Monroe Pressnell, Phil’s father*, is taking treatments once a month for his cancer... *Jack and Onzell Tucker* continue to be confined at home ... *Jackie Varnell’s father, Alvie Putman*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence ... *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.

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

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY: There are still a few copies of the pictorial directory in the vestibule. If you did not get your copy last week please get it today.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Words:* Lisa, Corey and Olivia continue to be out of town in Orlando, Florida visitng with Lisa’s mother... *The Coxes:* Kerry, Tyler, Hunter and I are in Bethel, Tennessee today where I am beginning a meeting.

PREACHING TODAY: Due to me being away in Bethel, Tennessee today, *Steve Parker* will be preaching this morning. Tonight will be the time for our regular scheduled song service.

OUR VBS: This past week we were engaged in our Vacation Bible School. This year the children’s classes studied “*Walking In Son Light*”. The adults studied “*Restoration Church History*”. We averaged 93 each morning and had over 80 children attend during the week. I appreciate all the hard work that all of our teachers and helpers did during the week. The children thoroughly enjoyed the classes and this is due to the work and preparation that our teachers did. The adult class was very good as well and I have heard many favorable comments about the lessons that *Frank Richey* taught. This was the eleventh VBS that the church here has conducted and I appreciate the elders for their commitment to this work.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Bethel church* in Bethel, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening with services at 7:00 p.m.. I will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: Attendance: Week of July 13th

Sunday:

Bible Classes 105
Morning Worship 126
Evening Worship 88

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 75

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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