

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, August 3rd:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Deut. 14:1-8)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer
..... Kevin Chancellor

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
Presiding Mr. E. Hammond
Assisting Brian Blakely
Serving Ethan Pressnell
..... Michael Word
..... Corey Goode
..... Jerry Dickey
Closing Prayer
..... Brad Hammond

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading ... (Deut. 14:9-20)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper
..... Mr. E. Hammond
..... Brian Blakely
Closing Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Volume XV

August 3, 2008

No. 31

Trapped, But Not Bound

Greg Litmer

Several years ago we had the opportunity to go to a nursing home every Saturday morning with a group of Christians and sing, pray, and teach God's Word with a number of the residents. One week we were studying Acts 16 and our particular focus was upon Paul and Silas being imprisoned in Philippi. I read verses 22-25...

And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

As we examined the passage and the situation in which Paul and Silas found themselves, I made the point that their actions served to illustrate that as children of God we can have joy no matter our circumstances.

Looking at the crowd that had gathered to study with us, I noticed one older woman. She was bent over, obviously unable to straighten her body. She could barely lift her head. Yet when I mentioned that circumstances do not control true joy of a Christian, she smiled and nodded her head as best as she could.

As I looked at her, I could not help but compare her with Paul and Silas. Here was an older woman, trapped in a wheelchair by a body that would no longer function as it used to. Thought of her childhood, and imagined the way she used

to run and play as the wind blew through her hair. I thought of her as a young woman, beautiful and so full of promise. Perhaps she had married and raised children. But now her time was drawing near and her body would not permit her to engage in the physical things she used to do. She was trapped, but not bound.

Nursing homes are paradoxical. I have spent much time in them over the years and have witnessed some of the saddest scenes I could ever imagine. At the same time, I have learned wonderful lessons about what it means to have our citizenship in heaven and our souls anchored there. So many older brothers and sisters in Christ, trapped in bodies that just would not function properly, have held my hand, smiled, and helped me to understand just exactly what Paul meant when he wrote, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18).

Whatever happens to our bodies—accident, sickness, or just the accumulative effects of age, may entrap us physically but the spirit of the faithful Christians cannot be bound.

• *BIBLICAL INSIGHTS*, Louisville, Ky., June 2008

"That Which I Now Live ..."

I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me: and that life which I now live in the flesh, I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

A MAN WHO FOLLOWED CHRIST was being beaten, and his abusers asked him, "What can your Jesus do for you now?" He responded, "My Jesus can give me the power to forgive you."

A family was concerned when a storm surrounded their house. A child entered the room and noticed the anxious looks. He said, "Don't be afraid, Jesus will take care of us."

A young lady was dating a guy who wanted more than a kiss and a hug. He tempted her with the words, "Let's have some fun." She replied, "If Jesus had a girlfriend, would He have her to do what you are asking me to do?"

Those situations are true experiences by Christians, people who live their life "in the flesh" What a challenge it is when you do not know the direction of the next temptation. We are exposed to much in this world and one wrong choice quickly leads to sin and guilt. Therefore, we cannot take lightly what we do while living in this "earthly house" (2 Cor. 5:1).

There are risks involved while living "in the flesh." We are connected to this world by a body that is the wonderful workmanship of God (Ps. 139:13-16). But those crucified with Christ, see their body as "a temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you, which ye have from God, and ye are not your own; for ye are bought with a price; glorify God therefore in your body" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Our body should be a willing servant of our spiritual nature. And the power enabling us to "live in the flesh" and at the same time have "Christ living in me" is ... *faith*.

Faith not only justifies us before God (Rom. 5:1-2), it is the platform of our life before others. It is the undergirding that supports the virtues of knowledge, self-control, brotherly kindness, courage, patience, godliness, and love (2 Pet. 1:5-7). This energy causes us to exercise our senses to do what pleases God (Heb. 11:6). We must always remember to "live by faith," "walk by faith," "stand by faith," "overcome by faith," and be "kept by faith unto the salvation revealed by Him in the last day" (1 Pet. 1:5). Faith is the positive side to a negative world. It unites the soul with the Savior. It is the pipeline though

which grace is supplied to the soul.

“That life which I now live”—is nurtured by the “Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” Our physical flesh is supported by what is on the outside: air, food, shelter, clothing, etc. We do not internally generate what our body needs. We depend on the external to keep us alive Likewise, it is essential we give consideration to what sustains us spiritually—on the inside: “It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jer. 10:23). “Beware lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” (Col. 2:8). We cannot sustain the spiritual man in Christ from our own ideas and imaginations. The soul will only find its support in the Bread of Life who came from heaven.

Therefore, Jesus becomes our Friend and Guide. His love and sacrifice makes Him our High Priest and Savior. He is our Peace and Joy. The impact of what He provides will have greater meaning only when we understand that he gave “Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

The power surrounding a life in Christ is *living power*. Seeds may be hidden beneath the earth's surface, but those seeds develop into a plant that breaks through the earth. So it is with us. Our life in Christ bursts forth as an open book (2 Cor. 3:2). We are not to hide our light under a bushel nor should we bury our talent in the ground. We should live as God meant for us to live while reflecting upon the words of Paul: “As therefore ye received Christ Jesus our Lord, so walk in him.”

It is our duty to be reflective of the image of God's dear Son. Only when our life in Him is witnessed in word and deed by others, will it increase the opportunity for another soul to experience “that life which I now live” in Christ Jesus. And that's what it is all about.

● *BIBLICAL INSIGHTS, Louisville, Ky., March, 2008*

News & Notes

Sara, Brook and Hayden Blakely were out of town this past Sunday. *Brian* will join them later in Canada and will possibly be gone for three Sundays ... *Brian's grandfather, Billy Hagood* fell last week and broke his hip and underwent surgery. At last report he was in Huntsville Hospital and seemed to be doing well ... We missed *Brian Word* last Sunday. He was gone to Florida to get *Lisa, Corey and Olivia*. They were all back with us Wednesday night ... *Ray Williams* left early Sunday morning returning to Jamaica ... We missed *James Albert McConnell* Sunday due to sickness ... *Daniel Clemmons* is feeling better but was at home Wednesday night due to *Laura* being sick ... *Janice Glass* is still having problems with her hearing after being at the emergency room ... we missed *Ella Wallen* Wednesday night due to being sick *Jack and Onzell Tucker* continue to be confined at home ... Others we want to continue to remember include: *Faye Hammond* ... *Monroe Pressnell, Phil's father* ... *Jackie Varnell's father, Alvie Putman* ... *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.

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

BAPTISM: We all rejoiced Sunday morning when *Billy Wallen* came forward and was baptized into Christ. We pray that he will have a long and fruitful life in the ser-

vice of Christ.

MANY THANKS: I know I speak the sentiments of the people here in the Anderson church when I say “Many thanks” to David and Kerry for all the labor wrought and love they have demonstrated these last 13 years.. David has completed his work as preacher at the Anderson church. The love that both of them have demonstrated for the church here, and the Lord is clearly known. We will miss them but bid them “farewell” as they leave and begin work at the Market Street church in Athens.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: Pleasant Valley (in Limestone County) has a meeting scheduled this week Sunday - Wednesday with week-day services at 7:00 P. M. Mike Cox will be the speaker. **Mount Hope, Lutts, Tenn.** has a meeting scheduled Monday - Wednesday with services at 7:00 P. M. each evening. Justin Roberson will be the speaker in this meeting.

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING: Remember our singing coming up later this month. Friday, August 22nd at 7:00P.M. we will be meeting for a period of congregational singing. We want the readers of *GOSPEL POWER* to know about this and we want you to come and be a part of this service. Make your plans now to be present.

TONIGHT’S SERMON: Our sermon at the 6:00 service will be a study of the Prodigal Son. Read the parable from Luke 15 and be back at 6:00.

THE RECORD: Attendance Week of July 27th

Sunday:

Bible Classes	104
Morning Worship	125
Evening Worship	85

Wednesday:

Bible Classes	76
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I was glad when they said, let us go unto the house of the LORD.” (Psalm 122:1)

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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