

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 10th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (Deut. 15:1-6)
..... Steve Parker
Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Phil Pressnell
Assisting Kevin Chancellor
Serving Michael Word
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Rodney McCrary
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading ... (Deut. 15:7-11)
..... Brian Blakely
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey
Lord's Supper
..... Phil Pressnell
..... Kevin Chancellor
Closing Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips

Volume XV

August 10, 2008

No. 32

What About Baptism, Is It Really Important?

Cecil F. Cox

Many people do not believe that water has anything to do with the salvation of the sinner. Water baptism is routinely minimized and discarded as being not essential in God's plan for the salvation of the sinner. Let us look at some things we find in the Bible that may cause one to change his mind.

First let us look at the Old Testament and see what part water played in the blessings man received from God. The case we want to notice is concerning the healing of Naaman. In 2 Kings 5 we learn that Naaman was a great man but he was a leper. He could not cleanse himself of this terrible disease. But he learned that there was a prophet of God in Samaria and that he "would recover him of his leprosy." This was good news for both Naaman and the King of Israel. Immediately, plans were made for Naaman to go to this prophet. When Naaman reached the house of Elisha he learned what would be necessary for him to do to recover from the leprosy. He was told by the prophet of God, "Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean." (2 Kings 5:10) I ask you to note what it was that stood between Naaman and his being cleansed from his leprosy. It is clear that it was obedience to the command of God to "... go and wash in Jordan seven times" and he would be cleansed. So we see water stood between

Naaman and being cleansed from his leprosy. At first he rebelled and later decided that if he wanted to be cleansed he must do what God said. The record says, "Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean." Some one may ask, "What does "dipping in the river Jordan" have to do with being healed from leprosy?" I could tell a leper that and it would mean exactly nothing. There would be no healing of leprosy. But, in the case of Naaman it was his obedience to *God's word*.

Many today seem to misunderstand the biblical teaching of baptism. This is especially true concerning the essentiality of baptism. Let us all put out of our minds any preconceived ideas as to this subject and let us allow God to speak to us through His word.

Baptism stands between the sinner and salvation. Mark 16:16: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." All men would understand if Jesus would have said, "He who believes and is baptized will receive a castle located on 20 acres of land in the beautiful state of Alabama. Why is it that the simplicity is lost when dealing with our salvation from sin? The probable reason is that many are deceived. They have allowed men to rob them of the hope they can have in Jesus Christ. Will we accept what Jesus has taught us or be deceived by the creeds and traditions of men? If we build our house on the sand, viz fail to do what Jesus says, our house is doomed. It will fall. He refers to such a one as "foolish" (Matt. 7:24-27)

Baptism stands between the sinner and the remission of sins. Look at Acts

2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38). Both repentance and baptism are in order to obtain the remission of sins. Why can not men respond to the gospel the way they did on the day of Pentecost? The Bible reveals, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

Baptism stands between the sinner and having his sins washed away. Saul of Tarsus asked, "... Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do" (Acts 22:10). Jesus told him to go into the city and he would be told what he must do (Acts 9:6). Observe here that Jesus told Saul he would be "told what he MUST do." (emphasis mine, cfc) This was not something that Paul could do if he wanted to, or if it pleased him, or if he could do it conveniently but it was a "must," It was something that was *absolutely necessary*. Ananias told Paul, "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). He needed to be baptized in order to have his sins washed away.

Baptism stands between the sinner and rejoicing because of forgiveness. The Ethiopian eunuch did not go on his way rejoicing until after he was baptized (Acts 8:39). Saul of Tarsus was in such agony of the soul that he did not eat or drink until after he was baptized (Acts 9:19). The Philippian Jailer did not rejoice until after he was baptized (Acts 16:33-34). Becoming a child of God is the greatest decision anyone will ever make. There should be great rejoicing when a soul obeys the gospel and is forgiven of his sins. However,

this rejoicing only follows baptism.

There are many other questions that are in the minds of many people about baptism. But when we look at these things, I hope you will see, from the Bible, that baptism is absolutely necessary for the forgiveness of sins. I hope all will be able to see there is no salvation without it. There is no power in the water in and of itself. It is not the water itself that saves, but God simply chose this action to cleanse one from sin. If you love the Lord, you will do what he says. "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14: 15). In John 15:23 Jesus said further, "... If a man love me, he will keep my words: ..."

Let none of us forget, we will stand before God in judgement. Do we know the standard that will be used in this judgement? Yes, Jesus tells us, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him (emphasis mine, cfc) in the last day." (John 12:48).



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

News & Notes

Several were out Wednesday night due to sickness including: *Shelia and Robin Goode ... Phil Pressnell ... Amber Hammond ... Suzette McIntyre ... 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 ... Several out of town were missed Wednesday night: *The Blakely* are in Canada ... *The Chancellor's* were in Nashville.

CONGRATULATIONS: The following young men will entering or returning to college:

Ethan Wallen	Northwest Shoals
Justin Dickey	Northwest Shoals
Anthony Wallen	Francis-Marion South Carolina

Ethan Pressnell
Lindonwod University
St. Charles, Mo.

Logan Pressnell
Marion Methodist
Pulaski, Tenn.

Anthony Wallen and Ethan Pressnell will be moving to South Carolina and Missouri in order to attend college. We will miss them and we want to wish them all the best. We will be looking forward to hearing good things from them. We urge them to keep in mind Jesus' words in Matthew 22:37-39. "... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And

the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the night for Communication group "B" to meet. If you are in group "B" be sure to attend this meeting.

TONIGHT'S SERMON: "Parents In The Home." Make your plans to be here.

DAVID COX: David left yesterday for a week of work in Barbados. He will be there for a week teaching the word of God. Keep him in your prayers. He will be returning home Saturday, August 16.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark. 16:15

THE RECORD:

Attendance Week of August 3rd

Sunday:

Bible Classes	100
Morning Worship	110
Evening Worship	72

Wednesday:

Bible Classes	70
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Remember our ...

Gospel Meeting
Bible Classes

Sept. 29 Sunday at 9:45 a.m. **2**

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Jeff May, Speaker

We want you to come... Christ
the entire family.

Anderson, Alabama

Classes for all ages!

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

Interim Editor

- Cecil F. Cox (256) 247-1752

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