

NEWS & NOTES

THE SICK: *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. ~ Judy Williams' mother **Flossie Kizzire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette ~ **Jerry Dickey** is continuing to receive cancer treatments. ~ **Frances Resse**, Aric Butler's grandmother, in Brookings, Oregon is very sick with lung cancer. ~ **G.W. Long**, Tanya Hammond's father has been in the hospital with heart problems. He is expected to go home today. ~ **Erica Crunk** has walking pneumonia ~ **Carson Crunk** will have his tonsils removed Friday. ~ **Helen Trousdale**, is home recovering. ~ **Sanda Martel** broke her leg in two places. She is home recovering.

Let Us Keep Our Expecting Mothers In Our Prayers: Amy Bassham, Andrea Butler, Laurie Chancellor, Katy Garner, Suzette McIntyre

Other News: There is MORE directory updates on the table in the foyer.

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP: Tonight after our evening service will be the meeting time for "Group B". If you are in this group, be sure to attend this meeting.

FOR THE RECORD: (Week of January 18th)

Sunday:	
Bible Classes	108
Morning Worship	127
Evening Worship	89
Wednesday:	
Bible Classes	85

Schedule of Services

Sunday
 Bible Classes 9:45 AM
 Morning Worship 10:45 AM
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM
 3rd Sunday Worship (*Singing*)... 3:30 PM

Wednesday
 Bible Classes 7:00 PM

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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Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation..." **Romans 1:16**

January 25, 2009
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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

www.Anderson-church.org

Men Privileged To Serve For the Week of Jan 25th

BIBLE CLASSES
Song Leader – Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading – Daniel Clemmons
Joshua 1:1-9
Prayer – Aric Butler

MORNING WORSHIP
Song Leader – Ronnie Phillips
Prayer – Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
Presiding – Mark McIntyre
Assisting – Brian Word
Serving – Steve Parker, Michael Word, Mark McCrary, Corey Goode
Closing Prayer – Andrew Gatlin

EVENING WORSHIP
Song Leader – Jim Phillips
Bible Reading – Brian Blakely
Joshua 1:10-18
Prayer – Jerry Dickey
Lord's Supper – Mark McIntyre, Brian Word
Closing Prayer – Scottie Goode

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASSES
Song Leader – Phil Pressnell
Prayer – Kevin Chancellor
Bible Reading – Steve Parker
Joshua 2:1-7
Invitation – Rocky Rose
Closing Prayer – Michael Clemmons

The Dark Path of Bitterness

By Larry Rouse

How is it possible for Satan to defeat and capture a child of God who had previously escaped his grasp? Satan is exposed in the Bible for the deceiver that he is. Jesus described him as having "no truth in him" and as being a "liar and the father of it" (**John 8:44**). While it is inconceivable for a Christian to ever imagine himself as willingly placing his life under the control of the "evil one," Satan, in fact, has a strong track record of accomplishing this very thing. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (**1 Pt 5:8**).

Satan's goal is to cut off the word of God from your heart and then drive you by your emotions. The Bible frames the struggle in this way: "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." (**Romans 8:12-13**) Over the years I have witnessed many of my brethren destroyed in this manner, and the vast majority were overcome with bitterness and anger.

There is a place for anger! When Jesus asked a straightforward question and received no reply, He looked into their hearts and responded in this way: "And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts..." (**Mark 3:5**). My Lord was angry, but my Lord never sinned. There is a place for anger when it is under control and directed by the principles of God's word. "Be angry, and do not sin: do not

let the sun go down on your wrath, 27nor give place to the devil" (Ephesians 4:26-27). We need to be angry when we see sin! But always remember this warning: "do not let the sun go down on your wrath," because a failure to do so will give the devil a place in your heart. And be assured, he will take advantage of it.

Why do so many of my brethren not take uncontrolled anger seriously? I know of too many men that laugh about their temper and others who laugh with them saying "that's just the way he is." What does the Bible say? "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him" (1 John 3:15). Does this verse get your attention? My eternal life is no laughing matter and anything that could come between my God and I has my attention.

Consider the works of the flesh: "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21). Did you notice the "anger family" in this passage? While we hear many good sermons on immorality and false doctrine, do we hear that same emphasis on uncontrolled anger? Remember "those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." The Bible plainly tells us of the difficulty

of controlling our anger. "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city (Proverbs 16:32). Moses was commended by God above all others for his ability to control his spirit (meekness – Numbers 12:2 ASV), but in a moment of anger he spoke rashly and thus sinned. "They angered Him also at the waters of strife, So that it went ill with Moses on account of them; 33 Because they rebelled against His Spirit, So that he spoke rashly with his lips." (Psalm 106:32-33). While Moses went to the ultimate Promised Land of God, heaven, he was not able to enter the physical Promised Land because of this one moment of anger.

When we begin to dwell on our hurts and nourish our anger, we are placing ourselves firmly in the hands of Satan. Have you ever tried to reason with an angry person? When you give in to a life of anger you also give up your ability to reason. "A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle" (Proverbs 18:19). The corrupt politician and the false teacher specialize in slander designed to shut down the thinking process. There are many Christians that I have known who, because of their anger towards a man, have quit serving God. What sense does that make? It is like getting mad at the dog and kicking the cat! In short, your anger will make you behave as a crazy person, unwilling to listen or reason, and ready to fight anyone or anything that gets in the way of your desire for revenge.

Local churches can be devastated by just one man who plants seeds of bitterness. We are warned in the

scriptures to be "Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled" (Hebrews 12:15). Bitter people often try to build their own personal kingdoms that one has described as "the fellowship of the miserable." You will be received and flattered by this group as long as you hate whoever the leader hates. I personally have been attacked by such groups for doing nothing more than showing kindness to someone that was an object of another's anger.

Bitter people will be lost if they do not repent. The greatest evangelists for Satan today are those Christians who plant the seeds of hatred in the church of our Lord.

In time bitter people will burn themselves out and their kingdoms will disband. Sometimes the bitter person will repent and return to the grace of God. Sadly, however, they often are unable to reverse the effects of the angry seeds they planted in the hearts of those that were closest to them. It is in the lives of their friends, and especially in their children, that the harshest fruits of planted bitterness will be seen.

There is a better way. "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:31-32). You will never regret releasing the desire for vengeance upon those who have hurt you. Our God has pleaded with us in this regard: "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is

Mine, I will repay," says the Lord" (Romans 12:19).

Do you really believe in God? Are you really a Christian, willing to follow in the footsteps of Jesus? Look carefully at the specific footsteps our God has placed before us: "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22"Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously" (1 Peter 2:21-23). The next time you are tempted to inflict punishment upon your enemy, I hope you will remember the pleading voice of God where He said "vengeance is mine." If you really trust God, then you will let it go. Please do not allow Satan to do his work through you. From Charlottesville Beacon, Vol 1 issue 19 – January 29, 2006

A Friend of Mine

James P. Needham

In the cool of the day I steal away
To a place where no men trod,
And spend some time with a friend of mine
In the Bible His name is God.
I talk with him when the light is dim.
To others it may seem odd;
Unburden my soul of misery unfold
For He is indeed my God.
When my heart is broken by grief unspoken.
When life is a burden to bear.
I return again to my faithful friend,
For He is always there.
When I go wrong in the maddening throng
Of men who my friend ignore;
He my folly forgives for in heaven He lives,
How could I ask for more?
From Torch, Vol. XIV, No. 9, Sept 1979