

~ **C.L Weathers** continues in the hospital recovering from many complications. He is in ICU ~ **Ronnie Phillips** is having treatments to help his back. ~ Eddie Hammond is in Huntsville Hospital room 403 with a blood clot in his leg. He should get to come home sometime tomorrow ~ **Let Us Keep Our Expecting Mothers In Our Prayers:** Amy Bassham, Andrea Butler, Laurie Chancellor, Katy Garner. There may be others that need prayers, please let us know.

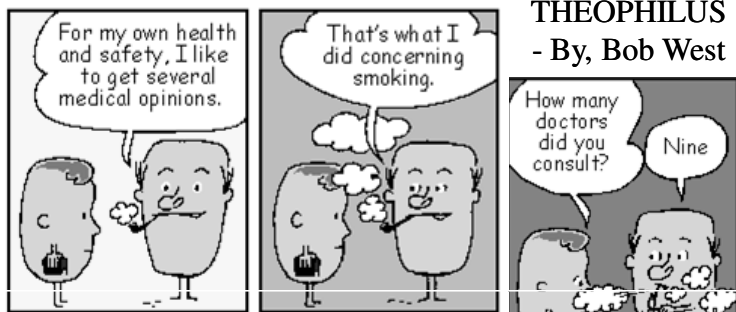
**YOUNG ADULT CLASS:** We had a great young adult Bible Study this last week at the Gatlin's house. I want to thank them for hosting the study. Our next study will be on May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Butler's house. Hope you make plans to attend and invite others.

**LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE:** Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> is our next study on Ecclesiastes chapter 2. We will met here at 10:00 AM. If you are able, please come and invite your friends and family to "just study the Bible with us."

**VBS MEETING:** If you can help with Vacation Bible School this year, we will have a meeting about it tonight at 5:00. Please come and help us with this good work.

**SINGING PRACTICE:** We will have our monthly singing practice tonight after evening worship. We will sing some new songs and encourage some new song leaders.

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



**THEOPHILUS**  
- By, Bob West

FOR THE RECORD	Sunday Bible Class	Sunday Morning
	100	114
Week of April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday Evening	Wed Evening
	90	84



### Schedule of Services

**Sunday**  
 Bible Classes .....9:45 AM  
 Morning Worship .....10:45 AM  
 Evening Worship .....6:00 PM  
 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



**April 26, 2009**  
Volume XVI No.17

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to 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  
[www.Anderson-church.org](http://www.Anderson-church.org)

**Men Serving This Week:**  
**Sunday Before Class**  
**Song Leader** – E. Hammond  
**Bible Reading** – D. Clemmons  
*Joshua 11:10-15*  
**Prayer** – R. Rose

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**Song Leader** – E. Hammond  
**Prayer** – S. Goode  
**Lord's Supper**  
**Presiding** – S. Parker  
**Assisting** – J. Adams, B. Wallen, M. Word, R. McCrary, J. Phillips  
**Closing Prayer** – B. Hammond

**Sunday Evening Worship**  
**Song Leader** – K. Chancellor  
**Bible Reading** – J. Dickey  
*Joshua 11:16-23*  
**Prayer** – J. Glass  
**Lord's Supper** – S. Parker, J. Adams  
**Closing Prayer** – B. Hammond

**Wednesday Bible Classes**  
**Song Leader** – M. McIntyre  
**Prayer** – A. Butler  
**Bible Reading** – R. Phillips  
*Joshua 12:1-6*  
**Invitation** – A. Andrews  
**Closing Prayer** – A. Gatlin

## How Do I Know What My Priorities Are?

**Gary Henry**



The young man who came to the Lord asking what good thing he should do to have eternal life probably would have said that spiritual concerns were his highest priority. But when he was told to sell what he had, give to the poor, and follow Jesus, "he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions" (**Mt. 19:22**). What he may have said about his values indicated one thing. His actions indicated another.

If we are not constantly careful, our list of priorities can become disordered. At such times, being honest enough to face the truth about the situation is not easy. When anyone asks what is most important to us, the tempting thing is to answer in terms of what we know *should* be most important. Because we think we are moving more or less in the direction of putting first things first ("I plan to pray and study my Bible more just as soon as I can get my schedule under control, etc."), we may think that gives us the right to say that spiritual concerns are our top priority right now. But the Lord does not judge what our priorities are by listening to our theories. He looks at our practice. And if we do not somehow gather our courage and look, as He does, at what means the most to us in actual fact -- and repent accordingly -- eternity holds no hope for us. Before it's too late to make any changes, we need to be asking ourselves some blunt questions about what our priorities really are.

**What would others say our priorities are?** Others may not know us as well as we know ourselves, but they are often more objective about what they do know. The neighbor who lives next door could probably sum up in a word or two what we are really about.

Perhaps more than anybody, our children are able to cut through our preachments and tell what actually matters most to us in the rough and tumble of daily living.

**What do we think about?** Our true priorities are the things our minds are drawn to when they are "in neutral." When activities and obligations do not require us to be thinking about anything in

particular, our thoughts are attracted, like filings to a magnet, to our real enthusiasms. The person who finds that he meditates on God only when he forces himself to do so is lying if he says the spiritual life is his overriding concern.

**What do we talk about?** The conversations we engage in arise quite naturally out of the things that are on our minds. If we have to admit that we rarely talk about the Lord except in connection with the services of the church, that ought to tell us something. And even if we do sometimes talk about spiritual matters, if our acquaintances would have to say that our conversation gravitates more naturally and enthusiastically toward other things, then there is serious doubt whether our ultimate priorities are really spiritual.

**How do we spend our time?** Hardly anybody has as much "spare" time as he would like. But all of us have some, and the way we spend it displays our priorities. I have known families, for example, who "vacationed" by traveling to gospel meetings or Bible lectureships at congregations in distant states. Judging from their use of time that was theirs to do with as they pleased, one would tend to believe such folks if they said they loved the Lord more than anything. On the other hand, I have known folks who all their working lives complained that they didn't have as much time as they wanted to do the Lord's work -- and then spent virtually all of their retirement years in personal leisure, with perhaps less time devoted to the Lord than before! The fact is, the way we spend our time speaks loudly regarding our values.

**How do we spend our money?** Suppose a Bible class teacher recommended a \$50 reference book that would help us in our study of the Scriptures, but we said we couldn't afford it. Suppose a preacher recommended a \$30 a year periodical that would help us grow spiritually, but we said it cost too much. If it was known that we sometimes spent that much on sporting events and recreational activities, that it wasn't unusual for us to spend that much in a

single evening at a restaurant, that we wouldn't object to spending that much on decorative home furnishings, etc., could anyone take seriously our claim that the Lord is our uppermost concern?

**What "gives" when we face a conflict of priorities?** Of the many conflicts involving priorities, perhaps none are more annoying than "scheduling" conflicts. Unable to be two places at the same time, we very often have to sacrifice one activity for another. When that happens, if we subordinate the things of the Lord to worldly activities, we give the lie to our professed priorities. In the matter of sports, to take a familiar example, if we can manage it such that our softball league and the services of the church hardly ever conflict, that is all well and good, but it says relatively little about our priorities. When the occasional conflict *does* arise, that is when we make a statement about our priorities. The same is true of work. If, on business trips, we've been willing to violate our commitment to assemble with the brethren at our travel destination, we may try to make it look as if we chose between one thing that was "optional" and another that was not. But, in truth, we've simply demonstrated which of our various priorities we are willing to make the bigger sacrifice for. Indeed, it's when priorities collide that we learn the most about ourselves, our values, and whether the Lord reigns within us or not.

How then do I know -- in all honesty -- what my priorities are? By looking at what I am, in fact, doing with my life. Paul wrote, "To whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness" (**Rom. 6:16**). At least one thing would seem to be clear: I can't pour the first and the best of what I am into pursuing what has euphemistically been called the American Dream and still turn around and say I love the Lord with all my heart. I can't go "all out" for *one* thing and then truthfully claim that something *else* is more important. Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters . . . You cannot serve God and mammon" (**Mt. 6:24**).

Where my priorities are, there will my energy and enthusiasm be also. — *From wordpoints.com*

## EMPHASIS ON BAPTISM

### Robert F. Turner

This story is told about a preacher who preached on the subject of baptism, sermon after sermon. Finally one member, in desperation, asked him to preach on Gen. 1:1, or creation.

The preacher began, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth-- the clouds, the land, and the water-- which reminds me---" so they had another sermon on baptism.

It is expedient for us to discuss more thoroughly those subjects about which there is greatest misunderstanding; hence, baptism has had a multiple work-out. Some of us may have emphasized this subject to the neglect of other important topics, but we have not violated the scriptures in teaching the necessity of baptism.

The great commission, sending the Apostles into all the world, and putting in motion the church as a teaching institution, is very clear on the subject. Matthew records Christ as saying, "--teach all nations, baptizing them--" and Mark reports, "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved--" (Matt.28:19 Mk.16:16) In the first application of this commission (Acts 2:38) Peter commands, "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."

In the cases of conversion recorded in the Acts of the Apostles one must be blind indeed not to see baptism. On Pentecost, in Samaria, the eunuch, Saul, Cornelius, Lydia, the Philippians, Corinthians, Ephesians-- all were baptized. The evidence is so profuse that discussion is limited by space and time-- not material.

Then the epistles confirm our findings from Acts of the Apostles. Paul wrote, "Know ye not

that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Did Paul "overemphasize"? (Rom. 6:3-4)

Water was the dividing line between a sin-cursed generation and the clean new world in Noah's time; and Peter said, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us --". (1 Pet.3:21) The negative clause, ("not the putting away of the filth of the flesh--") eliminates direct physical cleansing ("water salvation" as some put it) but actually strengthens the truth. Baptism, a figure, is a God-given figure, required of all who would be saved.

Whatever God requires of us in order to our salvation, may be said to "save" us. This is true of faith. If God had not made faith a condition of salvation, there would be no propriety in saying we are "saved by faith." Thus, when Peter says we are saved by this figure, baptism; he is fully consistent with every passage that shows baptism is commanded "for the remission of sins." (See Acts 2:38)

Should we emphasize "baptism"? To the extent this is needed in order to save men's souls -- YES! And woe to the weak in faith who ignore it. (END)

## NEWS & NOTES

**THE SICK OR THOSE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS:** A relative of Steve Parker, **Billy Parker** has cancer and is in need of our prayers. ~ **Jack and Onzell Tucker** continue to be confined at home. ~ **G.W. Long**, Tanya Hammond's father is receiving cancer treatments. ~ Eric White's father, **Jim White**, continues his cancer treatments. ~ Judy Williams' mother **Flossie Kizzire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette ~ **Jerry Dickey** and his fight with cancer. —————>