

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 Priviledged To Serve:
Sunday, October 12th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Psalm 137)
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Presiding Rocky Rose
Serving Aric Butler
..... Mike Rogers
..... Daniel Clemmons
Closing Prayer
..... Monroe Pressnell

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Psalm 138)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper
..... Rocky Rose
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Volume X

October 12, 2003

No. 41

The Witness of the Resurrection

David J. Riggs

In the Scriptures there are several witnesses who attest to the fact of the resurrection of Christ. A careful examination of the witnesses will increase and strengthen our faith, renew and enrich our hope.

Three things must be considered to decide a case upon given testimony. 1) Are the witnesses honest? 2) Are the facts of a plain, tangible nature? 3) How many witnesses are involved? If one establishes these three things beyond lingering doubt, he could have no better evidence in any court of law. It is the strongest evidence within the power of mortal man.

First, then we inquire, "Were the witnesses honest men?" This must be determined from the circumstances of the case. What were they to gain by their testimony? Did they gain large fortunes? Were they promoted to honor or high position? Were they given a comfortable, easy life? Some have been known to receive such things after giving certain testimony. However, the witnesses of the resurrection received only to the contrary (1 Corinthians 4:9-13).

Furthermore, we ask, "Did their testimony agree?" (Mark 14:56). There are no contradictions in the testimony of those who witnessed the resurrection. Also, we question, "Were they willing to stand behind their testimony?" Some in the face of affliction have changed their testimony, but the apostles and early Christians were willing to suffer imprisonment and death for the testimony of Jesus (Acts 5:28-29; Revelation 6:9; 12:11; 20:4). It is not in human nature for men to suffer and die for something they know to be false and promises no earthly rewards. Thus, we have established the witnesses to be honest.

Next, we inquire, “Were the facts of the resurrection of a plain, tangible nature?” There are three ways a deception could have been wrought.

1. Had they been only partially acquainted with Jesus, they could have mistaken Him for some other.
2. If He had been absent for a long time, they could have forgotten His general appearance.
3. If they did not have a fair opportunity to identify Him, they could have been deceived.

They were not partially acquainted with Him. They had been closely associated with Him for three years and would have known His walk, voice, color of eyes, and even the very lines on His face. Jesus needed only to call out Mary Magdalene’s name for her to recognize Him (John 20:15-17). They were not away from Him for a long time. He was crucified on Friday and raised on Sunday – hardly enough time to erase Him from their memory. They had a fair opportunity to identify Him after He was raised. He was in their presence (Matthew 28:9-10; John 20:19-20) and ate with them (Luke 24:36-43; Acts 10:40-41). They were associated with Him for forty days (Acts 1:3) and at last saw Him taken up into heaven (Acts 1:9-12).

As to the number of witnesses, besides those mentioned above, on one occasion Jesus was seen of above five hundred brethren at once (1 Corinthians 15:6). We close with these words from the apostle John:

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (for the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy

may be full (1 John 1:1-4).

~via *The Stonegate Standard*; Port Arthur, Texas.



Two Men Face Their Limitations

Bill Hall

Two men are rather inept in areas of public leadership. Neither is really talented in leading singing, preaching, teaching Bible classes, or fulfilling other roles that are so essential to effective worship periods. Both have tried, but their inabilities in such realms are apparent, to themselves and to others. But while they share this limitation, their attitudes differ dramatically.

The first man draws back into a shell, manifesting all the symptoms of an inferiority complex. He feels that he doesn’t belong, that others don’t appreciate him. He does nothing for the benefit of the Lord’s cause except to attend. He rarely visits the sick or speaks to a visitor or invites a newcomer into his home. “Can’t” becomes the prevailing word in his vocabulary. He complains because “only a few are running things.”

The second man, recognizing his obvious inabilities in leadership roles, looks about for other areas in which he can be helpful. He volunteers to keep the grass mowed around the building and to see that the building is opened early at every service. He is there to extend a warm greeting to the first arrivals. This is just typical of him. He is constantly observing a need and is working in his own quiet way to take care of that need. No other man in the church is more active in the work than he is.

The first man struggles to be faithful. His feelings are so easily hurt. Every lesson that deals with diligence in the Lord’s service, he is sure is

preached directly with him in mind. He doesn't like himself and his attitude is a barrier to good relationship with others.

The second man is appreciated by all who know him. His influence is great. He is perfectly suited to the work of a deacon. His death will leave a void in the church that no one man will be able to fill.

The difference is these two men can be clearly seen in the exhortation of Ecclesiastes 9:10: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might." What the second man has and the first man lacks is vision to see what needs to be done (his hand finds something to do) and initiative to do it with his might. These two qualities enable the one to be happy, busy, useful, pleasant, influential; a lack of them leaves the other miserable, limited, sensitive, stifled by self-pity.

To many readers who are limited in "leadership" roles we would ask: "Which of these two men present a true picture of you?" Open your eyes! There are needs all about you! Get to work! "There is room in the kingdom ...for the small things you can do." Everybody can't be the quarterback; everybody can't be the chief; but everybody can contribute. Let each person find his role, work diligently in that role, and rejoice in the contribution he can make to the welfare of the Lord's work.

-via *The Brookhill Workman*, Killen, Alabama.



Remember our regular scheduled song service will be next Sunday evening, October 19th. Monroe Pressnell will be directing the service. I hope all of us will make our plans to attend as we sing songs of praise to God.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Jerry Dickey's father, David Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence... *Valerie Stewart* was able to be back at services following her recent surgery... *Claus Martel* is still awaiting word on some additional tests and word on the previous tests are good ... *Mandy Griffen* has continued to suffer with sickness and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Amber Hammond* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Arvel and Doris Newton* have been suffering with back problems this past week and were not able to be Bible study Wednesday night... *Corey Word* has been not doing well with allergies and was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Jean Ray* has been unable to be at services, due to sickness ... *Mycala White* was better and able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick over the weekend... *Taylor Mosley* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Cindy Mosley* has been sick and unable to be at services... *Hubert Goode* continues at home ... *Myrtie Williams* continues at home... *Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis*,



Remember:

What? Young Adult Home
Bible Study
When? Sunday, October 19th
Where? At the home of
Michael & Sissy Clemmons
Subject? Building Strong Homes

is continuing his treatments for his cancer ... Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ... *Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty* who is at the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ... *James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell*, continues at home... *Jerry Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, continues at home ... *Faye Hammond* continues at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, who is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski ... *Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray*, who is at home... *Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray*, who is staying with family.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight is the night for communication group two to meet following our evening service. If you are in group two plan to meet this evening

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Brookhill church* in Killen is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday with services Monday through Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting.

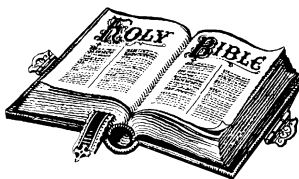
THE RECORD: *For the week of October 5th*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 83
 Morning Worship 103
 Evening Worship 66

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 77



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.
 Wednesday at 7:00 p.m .

Come join us as we study God's Word.

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

Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
 Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
 Larry White (256) 247-0988

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