

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 19th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading .. (Psalm 139:13-24)

..... Aric Butler

Prayer

..... Claus Martel

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Presiding Jimmy Glass

Serving Larry White

..... Ray Tucker

..... Chase Williams

Closing Prayer

..... Monroe Pressnell

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Monroe Pressnell

Bible Reading (Psalm 140)

..... Mike Rogers

Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Lord's Supper

..... Jimmy Glass

Closing Prayer

..... Larry White

Volume X

October 19, 2003

No. 42

First Impressions/Lasting Impressions

Monroe Pressnell

We've heard that many times first impressions are the ones that people retain. That's why we try so hard to make that first impression one that we would want people to remember. Many times that first impression defines what we are, what we believe, and what we stand for in our lives. All of this works the same way in the church and in our lives. Let's look at some first impressions and try to determine if perhaps we don't want to make some changes as we make first impressions both in our assemblies and in our personnel lives.

A new family is looking for a church to work and worship with. Here are some first impressions that they get from us. The sign says "Bible study at 9:45 am, but it's 9:30 and there's not a car in the parking lot, the building is still locked and the visiting family must sit in the car and wait for the last minute rush to get in the building and find a place to sit. **First Impressions?**

When that same family finally gets into the building, it's so near time to start that they must sit through the entire Bible study period without being greeted by one member of the congregation. **First Impressions?**

After we've finally sung a song or two, it's time for one of the men, usually one sitting near the front of the building, to lead the group in prayer. This good brother happens to pray so softly that our visitors, sitting near the rear, only hear a word now and then and thus have no idea what has been said to the Lord. **First impressions?**

Finally it's time to serve the Lord's supper. Three men, from various parts of the building, begin to move to the front. The fourth

“Thou Art The Man”

Randy Harshbarger

man has forgotten that he is to help serve and must be reminded by one of the other three or by one the elders or a deacon. So all those good people, including our visitors, thinking about the great sacrifice of our Lord, is now being disturbed by someone who must get to the front and is apt to step on toes or otherwise take our minds and the minds of our visiting family off the significance of what we are about to do. **First Impressions?**

Well the service is finally over and our visitors make their way out being greeted by the preacher only as they exit. Everyone else is busy looking at the new babies or visiting with family members for the first time this week. Now I want you to know that I love babies and I love visiting with family, but I've already made impressions on them, I need to be making impressions on that visiting family. As our visitors exit the building they ask the preacher, aren't Joe and Jane members here? We didn't see them, and the preacher has to make some flimsy excuse for the absence of some member who don't recognize the need to be at *all* of the services of the church. **First Impressions?**

What do we think happens to our visiting family? They go down the road and look for another group that demonstrates their love for the souls of men and women who make lasting impressions by their fervor and zeal for the Lord. It's a wonderful thing to love and appreciate our brethren at the church where we attend (1 Peter 3:8), but it's altogether a different thing to forget our mission of seeking and saving the lost. We need to learn how to behave ourselves in the house of God (1 Timothy 3:15). We need to be an ensample to them that believe (1 Timothy 4:12). We must encourage the weak (Acts 20:35). We must not forget to show love unto strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares (Hebrews 13:2).

First Impressions are important. That first impression of us may determine whether a person spends eternity in heaven with God and the faithful or in hell with the devil and his angels.

“Nathan then said to David, You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel, It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul” (2 Samuel 12:7, NASV). The circumstances surrounding David's sin with Bathsheba are as well known as his encounter with Goliath. How could David, at the zenith of his power, compromise his kingdom, his family, and his faith, by doing what he did? Arguably, David should have been out with his armies, leading the way in battle. But he was not doing that. He was home, enjoying a time of relative peace. The devil was not going to leave David alone. The fact that David did succumb to his own lusts (James 1:13-15) demonstrates the power of the devil. The devil will tempt and try the mighty and the lowly, all in an effort to lead each one away from God. So David, one of the Bible's greatest heroes, is painted with the dark colors of sin. The picture is blunt and impartial.

Nathan told David a story about two men: one rich, the other poor. In time, the rich man defrauded the poor man, by taking all that the poor man had—one little ewe lamb. David's anger was kindled as he demanded punishment for the rich man. Of course, he was the rich man; he was the man who deserved punishment; he was the defrauder. How easy it is to see in others what we cannot see in ourselves. With righteous indignation we can quickly point out the injustice of others, while being slow to see our own faults. The Lord spoke about hypocritical judging in His mountain message (Matthew 7:1-5).

It was only after David was told, “You are the man!” that he began to make the needed personal application. It is easy to say: “Boy, you sure needed that lesson!” We need to be asking: “Is it I Lord?” (Matthew 26:22). It is hard to turn the searchlight of God's word inwardly. Seeking to know and understand the Lord is not an aca-

demetic exercise. The word of God applies to me. The word of God will help us when we make the needed application.

Evidently, David tried, at least for awhile, to ignore his sin with Bathsheba. Psalm 32 speaks about his sin and his efforts to expunge the guilt from his heart. Yet, deep inside David was the knowledge that he needed to repent. He delayed doing so. There is danger in delay. The devil is counting on our delaying our obedience to God. The devil wants us to wait to repent. The devil does not want us to listen to God's word. Finally, David did own up to his guilt; he did repent and return to the Lord. It took Nathan's message to help David see his innermost need. Is that not the purpose of the gospel, God's power unto salvation? We might cover our sins for awhile; ultimately, we will give an accounting before God in judgment. We need to listen to God's word because it is the only message that provides for our salvation.

No man can please the Lord until there is a recognition and acknowledgment of sin and its dire consequences. David's actions displeased the Lord. David had been victorious over lions and bears. As a warrior he fought with the Philistines, establishing himself as king. He successfully eluded a jealous King Saul. Yet, David won his greatest victory when he said: "I have sinned." We too, can win that great victory over sin, but only with the Lord's help. When He speaks, may we listen. When He commands, may we obey. When He says, "You are wrong," may we repent.

-via *Stallings Drive Bulletin*, Nachcogdoches, Texas



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

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



Remember:

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

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Myrtie Williams* fell this past Thursday and broke her hip. She had surgery in Florence on Friday afternoon. She is in room 282 ... *Michael Clemmons* is scheduled to have a arteriogram on Monday afternoon in Florence ... *Scottie Goode* is scheduled to return to the doctor this Friday following an MRI on his shoulder... *Mandy Griffen* has continued to suffer with morning sickness and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Jerry Dickey's father, David Dickey*, has moved to Glenwood for rehabilitation... *C.L. & Margaret Weathers grandson, Dustin Campbell*, was released from the hospital on Monday after spending several days there with a virus... *Jean Ray* continues to suffer with an upset stomach and is not able to be up and out ... *Hubert Goode* has not had a good week this week and continues at home ... *Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis*, 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 ... *Tisba 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.

SINGING PRACTICE: This afternoon at 5:15 will be the time for our singing practice. During this time our young boys will lead a song and we will sing some songs that are new or that we are not familiar with. I hope everyone who is able will come to encourage our young boys.

SINGING NIGHT: Tonight is the time for our regular scheduled song service. *Monroe Pressnell* will be directing the service this evening. I hope that all of us will be present as we lift our voices together in song of praise.

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

CONFESSIONS: Wednesday evening *Stephen and Valerie Stewart* came forward confessing unfaithfulness in their service to God and asking for prayers on their behalf. We appreciate Stephen and Valerie and the attitude of heart which they possess. May the Lord grant them strength and may we encourage them as they will us in our work together in the kingdom.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Midway church* in Greenhill is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. *Ward Hogland* will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: *For the week of October 12th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 90
 Morning Worship 112
 Evening Worship 80

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 77

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

Evangelist & Editor

David A. Cox (256) 247-1049
 Office-(256) 247-5539
 E-mail address: dacox@hiwaay.net

U.S. Postage
 Paid
 Bulk Rate
 Anderson, Alabama
 Non-Profit
 Permit #6

Anderson church of Christ
 P.O. Box 66
 Anderson, Alabama 35610

Return Service Requested