

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, November 16th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading (Proverbs 1:1-19)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Prayer

..... Mark McIntyre

Presiding Rocky Rose

Serving Eddie Hammond

..... Jim Phillips

..... Jimmy Glass

Closing Prayer

..... Aric Butler

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Claus Martel

Bible Reading .. (Proverbs 1:20-33)

..... Larry White

Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Lord's Supper

..... Rocky Rose

Closing Prayer

..... Monroe Pressnell

Volume X

November 16, 2003

No. 46

What Defines Your Family?

Jim Jonas

Each family has its own fabric that is woven from a number of different threads. What influences mold and shape your family?

Often, young couples bring certain values and habits into their marriage from the home environment in which they were reared. Expecting one's mate to automatically adhere to them can create friction, for the other person may not be conditioned to such an outlook. What's worse, outright interference from the couple's parents and siblings can deeply affect a marriage. This should be resisted (Genesis 2:24).

A large factor in the overall complexion of a family involves the husband's employment. A man may not be able to provide the lifestyle that his wife had become accustomed to in her parents' home. He may work rotating shifts that constantly keep schedules in flux and nerve endings raw. His job may take her away from family and to an area she finds unpleasant. Work travel, being on call, job instability, and other factors have a large bearing upon the family atmosphere.

How we view our friends and associates will also set a tone in our own family. People tend to migrate toward others who share their outlook, thus reinforcing their value systems. Sometimes a subtle competitiveness develops, and we must "keep up with the Joneses" to feel satisfied. "They got a new SUV; why can't we?" "They upgraded their house; why can't we?" "They went skiing in the Rockies; why can't we?"

One of the most satisfying aspects of free moral agency is the ability to create and build. It is exciting to imagine, design, procure and construct, whether it be a building, a racecar or a career. But one

of the greatest adventures in life is to build family, to create a group of loyal, loving, entertaining, serving, and bonded people. And in many respects we are given architectural liberty in building that family. We can live where we wish, choose our lifestyle, establish our traditions and make memories that will comfort and console us as we age.

But the one thing that is absolutely essential in constructing our families is building upon a solid spiritual foundation. Our respect for God and our veneration of His word must be the loom upon which we weave our family fabric.

In spite of shift changes, consuming overtime and job uncertainty, are worship and Bible study the corner stones of your weekly schedule? Is there any time for or interest in spiritual activities beyond those of the local church? Is there any priority given to attending gospel meetings, vacation Bible schools or lectureships? (Girl/boy hunting at other congregations doesn't count.)

Amid all the Disney videos, see-and-say books, toys, games, puzzles, sports and other amusements we provide for our children, where does doing their Bible lesson with them rank? An irritation? An inconvenience? A burden? Is it something to do on the way to church?

Would you consider taking a family vacation to Mexico to visit some of our Mexican preaching brethren and introduce your children to life in the third world? (I suggested this at the FC lectures last February, and a woman recently called me about it. She took my challenge seriously and was planning to take her teenage children.)

Just how much of the fabric of your family life is woven from spiritual threads? We may wake up one day to find that the frayed and worn fabric was merely decorative and not very durable.

-via *Hueytown Bulletin* Hueytown, Alabama.

Remember Our Evening Service at 5:00.

Who Is Worthy?

Grant B. Caldwell

Jesus said, "Whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. And when you go into a household, greet it. If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city" (Matthew 10:11-15).

Who Is Worthy — When the disciples went out to preach, Jesus instructed them that when they arrived in a city make a judgment as to who was worthy. Some contend that in light of Matthew 7:1 Christians cannot judge others. However, Jesus rather demands that righteous judgments be made (John 7:24). How is one to determine who is worthy? It is certainly not by emotions, intuition, prejudice, or looks. In verses 13 and 14, there are three considerations suggested.

First: One is not worthy if he will not receive the messenger of the gospel. Hospitality has always been a characteristic of those who follow the Lord. The Hebrew writer said, "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels" (13:2). One of the great sins of Sodom and Gomorrah, cities mentioned in our text, was their abuse of their guests (See Genesis 19:1-6).

Second: One is not worthy if he will not hear the words of the messenger. In verse 13, Jesus said once a worthy household is found, "let your peace come upon it." True peace is in Christ (John 16:33). That can be had only by hearing His voice. He said, "Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me" (John

6:45). Another of the great sins of Sodom and Gomorrah, was that they would not listen to the message (See Genesis 19:7-9). We often speak the message to “one who turns away his ear from hearing the law” (Proverbs 28:9).

Third: One is not worthy if he will not repent of sin. It cannot be overlooked that Sodom and Gomorrah were steeped in sin. Their very names stood for wickedness (Matthew 11:23-24; Luke 10:12, 13; 17:29; Romans 9:29; 2 Peter 2:6; Jude 7). Our word sodomy comes from the evil of that city (See Genesis 19:5-9). While this is identified as an alternative life style and an alternative sexual preference, Peter said it is “filthy conduct of the wicked,” and Jude said it is “sexual immorality (fornication, KJV),” “ungodly ways” (verse 15), and those who practice them are “ungodly sinners.” Jesus said, “Unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3-5).

When Jesus through His providential care sends messengers of the gospel to you, do you receive them gladly? Do you listen for the message of God and receive it? Do you repent of sin and obey the gospel in baptism (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4; 16-18)? Do it today!!!

-via *News & Notes*; Madison, Alabama.



Remember our regular scheduled song service will be this afternoon at 5:00. Claus Martel 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: *Amber Hammond* is in the ECM hospital in Florence ... *Myrtie Williams* is now at home following her rehabilitation at Glenwood in Florence ... *Jacob Rogers* was sick this past week, but is now better ... *Scottie Goode* has been having continued pain in his arm and shoulder... *Jean Ray* continues to be sick and is not able to be up and out... *Charlotte Dickey* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Lou Ann Phillips* was sick and not able to be out Wednesday night... *Hubert Goode* continues at home and is not doing well ... *Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis*, who has undergone 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.

OUT OF TOWN: *The McConnells: James Albert and Freda* have been in Florida this past week... *Chase Williams* is in Fayette today visiting with family.

NEW BABY: This past Tuesday *Seth Thomas Mosley* was born at the ECM hospital in Florence. Seth is the son of *Derrick and Melissa* and the grandson of *Roger and Cindy Mosley*.

CONFESSION: This past Wednesday night, *Helen Stewart* came forward confessing that she has not been faithful in her service to the Lord and asked for the prayers of the church. We appreciate the attitude of heart that Helen possesses and

we want to encourage her, as she will encourage us, in the lives we live as Christians.

SONG PRACTICE: This afternoon at 4:15 we will have our song practice. Our young boys will each lead a song and we will sing some songs that we are not as familiar with. I hope that if it is at all possible to be present early, that you will come and join us at that time.

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.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Westview church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. *Dave Bradford of Cullman* will be the speaker in this meeting ... The *Needmore church* in Haleyville beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Services Monday through Friday will begin at 7:00 p.m. The speakers in the meeting are as follows: *Sunday 9:30 a.m. Jarred McCrary; 10:30 a.m. Steve Tidwell; Sunday 7:30 p.m. Darryl Taylor; Monday – Jacob Holman; Tuesday – David Cox; Wednesday – Eddie Caskey; Thursday – David Thacker; Friday – Jeremy Paschel.*

THE RECORD: For week of November 9th

Sunday:

Bible Classes 92
Morning Worship 117
Evening Worship 82

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 64



Remember:

- What?** Young Adult Home Bible Study
- When?** Sunday, November 22nd
- Where?** At the home of David & Kerry Cox
- Subject?** Building Strong Homes

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 5:00 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

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

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