

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 9th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (Psalm 148)
..... Eddie Hammond
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Presiding Monroe Pressnell
Serving Larry White
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Mike Rogers
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Psalm 149)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Claus Martel
Lord's Supper
..... Monroe Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Volume X

November 9, 2003

No. 45

"Imperatives For Happiness"

Randy Harshbarger

Man's pursuit for happiness is an endless one. In spite of the fact that the "cares and riches and pleasures of this life" can choke out the word of God from the heart, men continue to embrace things that will never bring satisfaction and fulfillment. Solomon said: "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance, with increase: this also is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 5:10). True, lasting values come only from the Lord. Yes, we are blessed. No, there is nothing wrong with enjoying what God has blessed us with, as long as we remember where our blessings come from. Israel was warned about this before entering the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 6:11). The Lord makes provision for our happiness, if we will only accept His will and live thereby.

The book of Philippians is pre-eminently a book of joy! "Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). "In the Lord" is the sphere of true happiness and rejoicing. The blessings that are available in Christ reveal why we need to serve Him; without Him we cannot truly live and rejoice. In Christ we are chosen, elected, accepted, redeemed, and forgiven (Ephesians 1:3-14). As children of God, we live within the scope of His providential care. We are heirs with Christ. Yes, we need to be "in" the Lord, that is, we need to be in a covenant relationship with Him (Galatians 3:26-27). These spiritual realities produce true happiness and contentment.

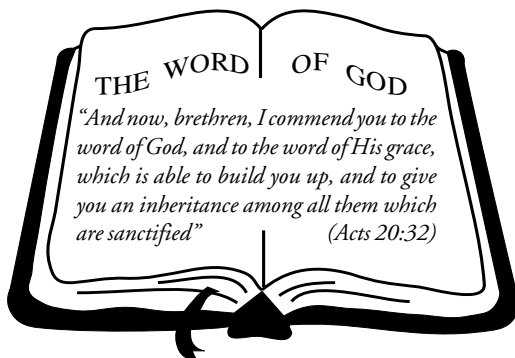
"Let your forbearance be known unto all men" (Philippians 4:5). Forbearance, or moderation, or gentleness will help each of us in our relationships with other people. Hypocritical judgments only alienate and help foster ill-feelings. An application of the "Golden Rule" will go far in helping others see in us an attitude of helpfulness

and service. Moderation in the home, in business, and certainly in the Lord's church can only produce a spirit of cooperation. To be at peace with all men is a worthy goal (Romans 12:18).

"In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6-7). Can you be happy when you worry? Can you find contentment when your life is full of fear and frustration? In a particularly distressing time for both Jesus and His disciples, the Lord said: "Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me" (John 14:1). Do we really believe that God desires to help and that He has the ability to help us? "Casting all your anxiety upon him, because he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7). If God cares for us, and He does, and we can cast our cares on Him, as we can, then why do we seem to have problems with finding true contentment? Could it be a lack of faith (Matthew 8:26)? The Apostle Paul tells us that contentment can be learned (Philippians 4:11-12). It is a hard lesson to learn, but it can be learned.

With the Lord's help, we can find true happiness and lasting peace. We can do all things needed and necessary to be counted as God's faithful children (Philippians 4:13). As we journey through this life, may our hearts be focused on the spiritual verities the Lord provides. Through prayer and supplication, as we cast every care and woe on the Lord, we can find true peace and satisfaction both now and for eternity.

-via *Stallings Drive Bulletin* Nachodoches, Texas.



Which Way of Escape?

Aaron Beard

With practicing medicine, it is not in the classroom where one gains his expertise and experience, but rather in the field. That very reason is why interning is so very important. It is the exact same way with our spiritual lives and service to God. When we step outside of the walls where the local church assembles and out of our homes where we engage in private Bible study, we find out exactly of what we are composed. As temptations arise, we find ourselves right in the middle of decision time. Like a medical student at the side of an operating table, we must decide quickly what route we wish to take.

First of all, we need to realize the source of our temptations. "Let no man say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God;' for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone" (James 1:13). One of the first reactions when one finds himself engulfed in sin is to blame God for the temptation, but here we see that this is not the case at all. James goes on to tell us exactly where our temptations come from; "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed" (James 1:14). Temptations do not and cannot originate with God. They come from our own wants to involve ourselves in these practices. The one who gives in to sins such as immodesty, dancing, drinking, and drugs does so only because they want that certain "desire" more than they want to please God! The problem does not lie with what God put on us, but with how much we actually desire to please God.

Concerning temptations, God does not leave us on our own. He gives us a wonderful promise concerning these situations. Paul writes, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the

way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13). Notice that God does not allow us to be tempted beyond that which we are able to take. He does not tempt us Himself, but will allow us to be tempted. He does not allow the temptation to be more than we can bear. What a wonderful promise this is! By overcoming these temptations we are able to grow, strengthening our faith. He also provides us with a way of escape. God promises us that there will never be a temptation to come our way that does not have a way out. What great comfort that is! However, the only way that we will recognize these “escape routes” is by studying God’s word.

While God is providing us a way of escape, the devil is also fast at work devising a way of escape of his own. Notice how the Hebrew writer speaks of some of the faithful; “...others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection” (Hebrews 11:35). They rejected a deliverance that would have kept them from partaking in the better resurrection. This was a way out that the devil provided for them. You see, when temptations and trials arise, Satan will have you stare at the consequences of doing right, not the consequences of doing wrong. He wants you to see all that you will lose, the things you will suffer, and how easy his way is. Initially, Satan’s “way of escape” will seem quite easy and may require no sacrifice or suffering. However, as time goes on and the sin blooms fully, one’s eyes are opened to the fact that the devil’s escape route was not easy at all. In fact, in the long run it often ends up being far more difficult than standing up for what was right would have been. Most importantly, if you stay in that sin, Satan’s “way of escape” will even cost you your home in Heaven.

When temptations arise, you stand at a fork in the road. There are two paths you may take: God’s way of escape or the devil’s way of escape. Satan’s way of escape, at the time, may seem easier with less responsibility, but as one takes that path he quickly realizes that it is one of

heartache, losses, and death. God’s way, though it may seem harder at the time, leads to happiness, health and eternal life. The majority of the world chooses to take Satan’s path. It is a path that is wider and you can see the millions of footprints that have trodden it before you. In contrast, God’s path is the one that is most definitely less traveled. Fewer people seem to be taking this route; however, it is the only one that leads to Heaven. Isaiah writes, “A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others... the redeemed shall walk there” (Isaiah 35:8). Now the choice lies before you. Which “way of escape” will you take?

-via *The Perry Hill Road Bulletin* Montgomery, Alabama.



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Willie Ridgeway* was released from the hospital this past Tuesday after spending several days there ... *Myrtie Williams* continues at Glenwood rehabilitation in Florence, room 113 ... *Sadie McIntyre* was sick last weekend, but is now better ... *Mattie Blanche Word* was taken to the hospital this past week, but was not kept ... *Sam Noles* has been sick has not been able to be out... *Claus Martel's father, Gene Martel*, is

recovering from his recent surgery... **Jean Ray** has been to the doctor and had several tests done. They have changed her medication ... **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.

NEW AUDITORIUM: Originally the plans were for us to begin meeting in our new auditorium today. The meeting in the new auditorium has had to be delayed due to the pews and not being delivered this week. Hopefully the pews will be delivered this week and we will be able to have everything ready to begin meeting in the new auditorium next Sunday.

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 **Helton Drive church** in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services Monday through Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. **Robert Jackson** will be the speaker in this meeting ... The **Elkton church** in Elkton, Tennessee beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. Services Monday through Wednesday will begin at 7:00 p.m. **Gary Patton** will be the speaker.

Remember Our Evening Service at 5:00.

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

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