

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, January 26th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading (Psalm 68:19-35)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Prayer

..... Brian Word

Lord's Supper/Collection

Presiding Mark McIntyre

..... Larry White

..... Jerry Best

..... Jason White

Closing Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading (Psalm 69:1-18)

..... Aric Butler

Prayer

..... Jerry Dickey

Lord's Supper

..... Mark McIntyre

Closing Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Volume X

January 26, 2003

No. 4

The Enemy At The Gate!

Glen Young

The recent election [1998] has produced a surplus of political experts who have flooded the airwaves with telling us what Tuesday's election meant concerning the future of our society. It is not my intention to be grouped with these shrewd purveyors of political insight. My concern with politics is a concern with the philosophies shaping today's society and how these philosophies affect local churches.

What did Tuesday,s vote reveal about the modern day philosophies that are shaping our society? It reveals that moral character doesn,t matter. It says it is O.K. to sacrifice babies to the god of women,s right to choose. It reveals that sexual perversion is an acceptable life style. It reveals that as a society we have swallowed hook line and sinker, the philosophy of materialism. In a recent survey taken by the staff of the Dateline TV program, people were asked if they could have one thing out of the three offered, which would they prefer (sex appeal, intelligence or money), overwhelmingly, the choice was money (1 Timothy 6:10).

How has this impacted local churches? It has expressed itself by churches emphasizing the wrong things. While we should be compassionate people, we must not allow compassion to keep us from dealing with the sinner and opposing his sin. The greatest act of love that can be shown is to rebuke and reprove the sinner (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

It is equally important for us to be a pleasant and happy people. However, when local churches emphasize this touchy, feel good, atmosphere, there is a real danger in making our assemblies nothing more than social gatherings for the purpose of entertaining the

audience (John 4:23).

Like Paul, all Christians should be aware of their brethren's personal conscience and should not do anything to cause them to stumble (1 Corinthians 8:13). But again, neither can we allow the personal consciences of brethren to dictate a course of action that will lead the local church down the rose colored path to destruction. Local churches must never plan nor do their work based upon the popular opinion of their memberships (Revelation 2:5). When elders, preachers and teachers put a wet finger to the air to determine which way the philosophical winds are blowing, local churches will lose their identity as the Lord's church.

Our grandfathers, fathers, brothers and sons did not leave their life's blood on Normandy beaches or in Vietnamese rice paddies to uphold political correctness. The Lord did not shed His life's blood on a Roman cross to make local churches politically correct. The Lord died to save the lost (Luke 19:10). He did not die to create social clubs for entertainment.

Local churches can and must be the stabilizing force in our society. This will only happen when they abide in the role assigned to them by the Lord.

Awake! The enemy is at the gate! (Psalm 127:1; Isaiah 21:6; Ezekiel 3:17).

-via *The Road Creek Bulletin*, Elkhorn City, Kentucky.



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Do You Believe?

Joe Fitch

Do you believe in Jesus? "Well, yes. I believe Jesus was a man – a Jew who lived long ago – a powerful teacher who altered the entire course of history. He also made a lot of enemies who eventually killed him." That is historical faith – accepting historical fact. What is such faith worth? Not much! No more than believing that Columbus discovered America – no more than believing Hitler ruled Germany – no more than believing Lassie was a really smart dog. Historical faith is only facts – at best, a bottom rung piece of the whole faith.

Do you believe Jesus was a real man? Yes, replies Caiaphas – who advised killing Jesus (John 11:49-). Yes! answers Nazareth where he grew up – they tried to push him off a cliff (Luke 4:28-)... Demons respond – "We know who you are..." (Luke 4:33-) – they also "believe and tremble" (James 2:19). Faith? Yes! A partial faith with no eternal or spiritual benefit. In fact, a historical faith may be detrimental – it may suggest a person is better off than they are – closer to God than they really are.

Do you believe in Jesus? "Oh yes! I believe Jesus was the Jews' Messiah." Is that faith worth much? Of course, it is! The woman of Samaria appealed her question to Messiah saying, "...he will tell us all things." Jesus responded "I who speak to you am he" (John 4:25). The woman called her village: "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" They listened to Jesus and also concluded: "We know that this is indeed the Christ..." (John 4:42). A host – Andrew included – met Jesus and joyfully declared: "We have found the Messiah" (John 1:41). Jesus as Christ (Messiah) is a critical concept – a major plank in faith's platform. Many ancient Jews rejected Jesus as Messiah. Jews still do. Absence of faith stands between them and God – between them and being a Christian. "Messiah faith" is

necessary, yet only partial. It is deficient — missing essential elements of a full faith. Simply believing Jesus is the Messiah, will not number you with believers.

Do you believe Jesus' doctrine? Is doctrine a part of faith? Of course. Doctrine — right doctrine is essential. No one is a disciple who does not accept teaching from Jesus. "They shall all be taught by God" (John 6:45). No one comes to the God without true doctrine — yet many have true doctrine without other vital aspects of faith. Paul challenged Agrippa — "King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you believe" (Acts 26:27). Agrippa was not ignorant. In fact, he was "expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews" (Acts 26:3). Yet Agrippa was not a godly man — not right with God — and surely not a believer. You can know and argue right doctrine while being a drunk — or immoral — or dishonest — or just plain mean. Some do! They may well be deficient in all aspects of faith except doctrine. They are hardly believers — even though they teach accurately the doctrine of Christ. Doctrinal faith is not the whole of faith.

"Do you believe in the Son of God?" asked Jesus of the blind man he had healed (John 9:34). "Lord I believe!" Nathanael confesses, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (John 1:49). The "Son of God" dimension of faith is closely connected to "messiah faith," but it is a distinct facet of faith — a vital facet. The blind man knew little about Jesus — "One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see" (John 9:25). Jews freely debated "Is Jesus Messiah" but were angered by any assertion that "Jesus is the Son of God." Faith in the "Son of God" asserts Jesus' deity — he is more than mere man — he is God. Jews demanded, "Who are you?" Jesus of Nazareth? Yes. Messiah? Yes. But much more. After an involved discussion, Jesus finally said to them: "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58). The "I AM" claimed God. They understood this, but they surely did not believe Jesus was God! —

"Then they took up stones to throw at him" (John 8:59). Is this an important aspect of faith? It is essential! Ask Jesus! He said to those Jews — "you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins" (John 8:24).

Do you believe in Jesus as Lord? Ah, this is another level of faith — a much higher and more demanding level. Accept the historical man Jesus of Nazareth — accept that Jesus is Messiah — even accept that Jesus is God and yet you may well not believe in him as Lord. Faith in Jesus as Lord means accepting him as master — agreeing to do whatever he says — committing to follow him even when you neither understand nor agree. Faith in Jesus as Lord is absolute surrender to him. Church members sit on the pew -- sing songs about Jesus -- believe who he is but -- but they do not submit to him in everything he says. "Self" has not been evicted from the ruling throne to accept Jesus as Lord. How important is this faith? No one is a disciple of Jesus without it! From day one, Saul of Tarsus exhibited this level of faith — trembling and astonished, he said "Lord what do you want me to do?" (Acts 9:6). With many people, faith in Jesus as Lord is the most obvious missing part for full faith. "Rebel" is the label for those without this aspect in their faith.

Do you believe in Jesus -- who promises? Remember Martha. Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know he will" ... Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life... And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:23-). Her faith was full — "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." Hope's roots are deeply set in faith. Hope is the extension of present faith. Jesus is faithful — and we trust him to be so — we expect him to always be so. Such faith sustains in crisis — in persecution — in death. Faith without hope "as an anchor of the soul" (Hebrews 6:19) is likely to fail.

Do you believe? — really believe? — fully believe?

-via *Bible Comment*, Coppell, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Onzell Tucker* is scheduled to have surgery on Monday to remove a spot on her lung ... *Suzette Clemmons* is doing better after being sick this past week and unable to be at Bible study Wenesday night... *Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode*, is to return to have the growth in his throat trimmed on Tuesday ... *Faye Hammond* continues at home and is going for rehabilitation during the week... *Curtis Mosley* is doing better after being sick this past weekend and unable to be at services ... *Christopher Rose* has had strep throat this past week, but is now feeling better ... *Sissy Clemmons* has been sick this past week and unable to be at services... *Lou Ann Phillips* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Amber Hammond* was feeling better and was able to be back at Bible Study Wednesday night after being sick this past weekend ... *Jamie Mosley* is doing better after being sick this past Wednesday and not able to be at Bible study .. *Janice Glass' uncle, Fred Masonia*, continues in ECM in Florence in ICU following his surgery this past week... *Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis*, has cancer and is being treated... Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home... *Aldeen Noles* and *Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty* who are at the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg... *Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, who is 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.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the night for Communication Group four to meet. Remember if you are in Group four to meet with your group tonight.

BUSINESS MEETING: Remember the elders have scheduled a meeting for all the men of the congregation following our evening service on February 9th. I hope that all the men will make their plans to attend this meeting.

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: daco@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