

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 Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 16th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Psalm 76)
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Brian Word
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Larry White
..... Jerry Dickey
..... Curtis Mosley
..... Jim Phillips
Closing Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Claus Martel
Bible Reading (Psalm 77)
..... Scottie Goode
Prayer
..... James Word
Lord's Supper
..... Larry White
Closing Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass

Volume X

February 16, 2003

No. 7

What Is Spirituality?

Mark Roberts

The term "spiritual" and "spirituality" are being tossed about quite a bit these days. Almost anything can qualify as "spiritual." Phil Jackson, coach of the Los Angeles Lakers, a NBA basketball team, has authored *Sacred Hoops*, a book about his spiritual journey in coaching ball. Art exhibits proclaim they are part of an emerging "new spirituality." Many books have been written, with authors making the talk show circuit, that discuss how to find one's spiritual center or be a truly spiritual person. Everyone seems to be more interested than ever in finding spirituality. Yet few seem to be asking for a definition of exactly what they are looking for. Just what is spirituality?

In our society, spirituality has come to mean three or four key ideas. First, much of today's spirituality movement is certain **no one source holds all truth**. Elizabeth Lesser has written one of the most popular books on today's spirituality, *The New American Spirituality: A Seeker's Guide*. In it she speaks of how she has discovered a "deeply personal religious path-one that wandered through Zen Buddhist monasteries, meandered through Christian churches, dabbled in African and Native American traditions..." Thus "using her own journey as the road map, Lesser discusses why so many Americans are coming to a deeply personal form of religion - one that does not prescribe to a specific doctrine or definition of God." To find your own spirituality you need to wade through all sorts of different ideas and traditions to find what appeals to you, what you like and what makes you feel good. That leads to the second key idea, which is **do what you want, how you want, when you want**. American spirituality really is Home Depot spirituality - it's do it yourself religion. For example, one fellow has written a book about

the spirituality of eating, saying that “eating connects us to the mystery and source of all living things.” Others are practicing vision quests, nature hikes, or just about any thing else any one wants to do. Do what you like and then just call it a spiritual experience. Of course, a big part of this will be **no condemnation of any kind**. No one should judge any one else’s spiritual experience, regardless of how silly or sick it may be. You do what you want, I will do what I want and we will all just agree that we are all very spiritual people. If this sounds ridiculous, remember that there is **no objective reality**. God doesn’t really exist – we create Him. In this new spirituality there are not absolute standards of right and wrong that apply to all people in all times. Ethics fluctuate and change with every situation. God is not a real Being, an objective reality that has factual existence. No, instead God becomes something we make up, and that we can craft to suit ourselves.

A close examination of American spirituality reminds one of Romans 1 doesn’t it? Today’s spiritual gurus claim wisdom but are only leading people deeper and deeper into paganism and immorality of every kind.

The Bible offers a very different definition and idea of spirituality. 1 Corinthians 3:3 tells us “for you are still *carnal*. For where there is envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and *behaving like mere men*?” To be carnal is to behave like men, thus its opposite (spirituality) is simply to behave like God. Spirituality is simply being godly, or possessing godliness. A fine working definition of spirituality is knowing God so I can please God. That is what godliness (spirituality) is all about. Paul makes this clear: “If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord” (1 Cor. 14:37). Spirituality is forever tied to knowing God and doing God’s will. Let’s break these ideas out.

First, I must know God. Paul writes “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excel-

lence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord” (Philippians 3:8). This first step must be taken very seriously. We need to know God, to understand Him, to love Him for all that He is. To go past this to obedience runs the risk of failing to have relationship with our Creator. God wants us to be His children, to know and love Him (see John 1:12). Do you know God? Spiritual things are those things that are in harmony with God’s character. Do you know His character? Spirituality is being like God. Do you know what God is like? The spiritual person behaves and acts like God behaves and acts. Do you know how God behaves and acts? The beginning of spirituality is the determination to know God.

If you are wondering how to come to know God like this then I must tell you the only source of such information is God’s word. Most people want to have some sort of experience, to feel something, to have a mystical encounter of some sort. Yet God never tells us that such experiences are the stuff of which truly knowing Him is made. God never says “feel this way” but instead “know me through My word.” Titus 1:1 simply says “Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect and the *acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness*.”

Secondly, this knowledge of God must lead me to please God. So many want spirituality to be an excuse to be free of restraint, to do as they please. Yet the Bible shows us that the truly spiritual person obeys God. “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar” (1 John 2:3-4). My knowledge of who God is, His character, love for me, mercy extended to me changes me, causes me to do things, be things. Isn’t this the pattern of Jesus’ life? Who can deny that He was deeply spiritual person? Yet it is Jesus who said “I can of Myself do nothing... *because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me*” (John 5:30). Like it or not, real spirituality is rooted in obedience.

Judges 21:25 tells us of a time when people were interested in spirituality but not interested in God. So we live in those times again. Sadly, sacred exercise plans and the art of the inner meal simply cannot deliver what people are questing for: a genuine relationship with God. That is the essence of spirituality: to know and please God. This will only come from the Bible, as we allow it rule our lives. May God bless as we pursue true spirituality.

-via *Abundant Life*, Irving, Texas.



Winter/Spring Quarter Begins

Today we are beginning our winter/spring quarter in our Bible classes. We are looking forward to this quarter and the teachers for this quarter are as follows:

Nursery:

Cindy Mosley/
 Jamie Mosley (Sunday morning)
 Sissy Clemmons/
 Jamie Mosley (Wednesday night)

Pre-school:

Kerry Cox (Sunday morning)
 Marcia Cooper (Wednesday night)

Primary:

Cindy Pressnell (Sunday morning)
 Marla Clemmons (Wednesday night)

Intermediate:

Jerry Dickey (Sunday morning)
 Daniel Clemmons (Wednesday night)

Jr.-High School:

Ray Tucker (Sunday morning)
 Ronnie Phillips (Wednesday night)

Young Adult:

Mark McIntyre (Sunday morning)
 David Cox (Wednesday night)

Adult:

Michael Clemmons (Sunday morning)
 Michael Clemmons (Wednesday night)

I want to express my appreciation to all of those who taught during the fall quarter for their work and dedication. We had a very good quarter. I am eagerly looking forward to this quarter and hope that all who can will be present and prepared for our periods of Bible study. There are classes for all ages. Won't you join us in a study together of God's word?

(D.A.C.)

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Onzell Tucker* is at home now recovering from her surgery... *Amber Hammond* has been sick this past week, but is now doing better ... *Marla Clemmons' grandmother, Mildred Blackburn*, is now home from the hospital after spending a few days there... *Faye Hammond* continues at home and is going for rehabilitation during the week... *James and Freda McConnell's granddaughter, Masey Rae*, came home from the hospital this past Monday... *Lisa Word's father, Austin Dillinger*, is in the Sunbelt Rehabilitation in Orlando, Florida... *Willie Ridgeway* was not able to be with us this past week due to not feeling well... *Madia Haraway* has also ben sick this past week and not able to be out ... *Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray*, continues at home, but is still not doing well ... *Erin Cooper* was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick over the weekend... *Brandon Dickey* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Robyn Goode* was also sick and unable to be out Wednesday evening... *Ella and Ivy Wallen* were sick this past week and not able to be at services... *Mycala White* was sick Wednesday and not able to be at Bible study ... *Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis*, has cancer and is being treated... 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 ...**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.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Janice Glass and all the family** in the passing of Janice's uncle, **Fred Masonia** this past Wednesday evening. His funeral was yesterday in Tusculmbia.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the time for Communication group three to meet after our evening service. If you are in group three plan to meet this evening.

SONG PRACTICE: This afternoon at 4:15 we will have our our song practice before our song service at 5:00. Our young boys will be leading a song and we will work on some songs that we are not familiar with. I hope that everyone who can will be present to encourage our young boys.

SONG SERVICE: Remember this evening will be the time for our regular scheduled song service. **Claus Martel** will be directing the service. I hope everyone will plan to be here as we lift our voices in songs of praise to God.

GOSPEL POWER ON-LINE: The **Gospel Powers** are continuing to be uploaded to the church's website. We have recently been able to reduce the size of the bulletin so they will download in just a few seconds. Take time to visit our website.

Remember:

- What?** Young Adult Home Bible Study
- When?** Tonight, February 16th following our evening service.
- Where?** At the home of Daniel & Marla Clemmons
- Subject?** Instrumental Music In Worship

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

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