

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, April 13th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Bible Reading (Psalm 93)

..... Aric Butler

Prayer

..... Mark McIntyre

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Prayer

..... James Word

Presiding Larry White

Serving James Albert McConnell

..... Chase Willeams

..... Daniel Clemmons

Closing Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Claus Martel

Bible Reading (Psalm 94:1-15)

..... Jimmy Glass

Prayer

..... Jerry Dickey

Lord's Supper

..... Larry White

Closing Prayer

..... Jerry Best

Volume X

April 13, 2003

No. 15

Shoring Up Our Hope

Steve Patton

Of all that the heart is capable, hope is among the highest and noblest responses to which the human heart can attain. For the Christian it is a critical part of our spiritual arsenal – our helmet “the hope of our salvation (1 Thessalonians 5:8). Without it we would be miserable beings who are worthy of others’ pity (1 Corinthians 15:19). But thanks be to our God, we have been begotten unto “a living hope...an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you (1 Peter 1:3-4). It is this hope which will strengthen us and carry us through.

Hope is a continual theme throughout the Bible closely interwoven with faith, trust and waiting on the Lord. In fact, these themes are inseparable. If we believe what God says then we hope for its final fulfillment, the realization of all that He has promised about life to come.

Do we really understand what hope is? When asked if you are going to heaven, do you reply, “I hope so,” meaning “I wish for it but I really don’t know if I will”? That is not the kind of hope found in hearts of the first century Christians. Their hope was spoken of as a certainty. They know they had been promised a place in the world to come. That is why it is a “living hope.” It is alive in us and we fully expect its realization!

When so many around us belittle our faith and mock our Lord, we need this hope more than ever. It is hope that sustains – it is “an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast (Hebrews 6:19). It is what motivates us to live as God wants, to purify ourselves (1 John 3:3). Without it there will be no triumph over Satan and this life.

How do we shore up our hope? We remember God is faithful

(1 Corinthians 1:9). He will do what He says. He proved that over and over in the promises made and fulfilled to ancient Israel. He never failed to keep His word. That “shores up our hope” that he can and will fulfill every promise made to us as spiritual Israel.

Remember His sacrifice and His promised return every Lord’s Day. In observing the Lord’s Supper “we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes” (1 Corinthians 11:26). Our hope is renewed in that memorial feast. We recall weekly the hope that is grounded in the resurrection of our Lord. When we neglect that memorial feast our hope is weakened.

Remember the Word. Faith is established in knowing the Word. And faith gives substance to hope (Hebrews 11:1). We strengthen our hope by reading and studying the Word. The heart is revived by hope. “Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the Lord” (Psalm 31:24). If we immerse our hearts in reading and meditating on His Word, hope will soar, for we will be reminded of all God has done and will do.

Finally, experience His grace. By that I mean live by His Word steadfastly. Putting into practice the revealed grace of His Word will cause us to “prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God (Romans 12:2). In Romans five, Paul speaks of tribulations producing character which, in turn, results in hope. Does this not indicate that hope is strengthened by living for God? The day-to-day life in His service will help convince us of His wisdom and faithfulness. We will learn firsthand His way is best. Surely such a wise God will also fulfill His promises regarding the life to come.

Hope implies human limitation. Thus hope says we know there is someone greater than us who can do all things and we fully trust Him to fulfill our hope. This lifts our spirits and motivates to greater faithfulness. Shore up your hope. Hope attaches us to eternity; and that prevents lots of problems in our lives.

-via *Divine Directions* Florence, Alabama.

The Anderson church of Christ website at:

[www. Anderson-church.org](http://www.Anderson-church.org)

On the Site You Will Find:

1. Information about the church at Anderson
2. The *Gospel Power* in .pdf format uploaded each Sunday.
3. Sermons preached at Anderson in Real Audio.
The Sermons Preached In Our Recent Meeting with Robert Harkrider on-line.

Please Visit Our Site Regularly.

Noble-Minded Hearers

Frank Himmel

Preachers do not get to choose their audiences. If we did, we would doubtless opt for ones like the ancient Bereans, whom Luke describes as “more noble-minded...for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11). Can you identify in this verse the five attributes of a good audience?

They are receptive. Some have no interest at all in what a preacher says. That is true not only of those who won’t go to church but also of some who do. They sleep, read, daydream, or do whatever to pass the time. Amos described some in his day as asking when will this be over so we can get to doing what we want to do (Amos 8:5).

Does that sound familiar?

They are eager. The Bereans were not merely receptive, they were eager! Learning God's will was exciting to them. "Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation" (1 Peter 2:2).

They are concerned about truth. The Bereans were not interested in being entertained. They did not want to have their ears tickled by someone telling them how great they were or saying what they wanted to hear. They wanted the truth. That desire prompted them to verify what was said. Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

They search the Scriptures. This is the way to verify what is said. Read the Bible for yourself. You cannot always rely on the preacher's citations. Preachers sometimes misquote the Bible. They may attribute to it statements or ideas that are not there. They may leave out essential parts. God's word is truth (John 17:17), the truth that makes us free (John 8:31-32).

They search the Scriptures daily. The best hearers continue to think about what was said long after the sermon is over. They continue their verification and further study of the subject. And, of course, they put it into practice, as many Bereans did (Acts 17:12). "But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves" (James 1:22).

Are you a noble-minded hearer?

-via *The Manslick Road Speaker*, Louisville, Kentucky.

Vacation Bible School

June 2-6 – 10:00 a.m.

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

Remember:

- What? Young Adult Home Bible Study
- When? Sunday, April 27th following our evening service.
- Where? At the home of David & Kerry Cox
- Subject? Restoration History



Come join us as we study God's Word.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Billy Haraway* continues taking treatments each Friday for his cancer ... *Amber Hammond* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be at services... *Jean Ray* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be out ... *Faye Hammond* continues at home and continues her rehabilitation during the week ... *Janice Glass's grandmother, Emma Ray*, in the Beverly Health Care Rehabilitation in Florence... *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 Lawrence-burg ... *Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, who is at home ... *Tisha Thomas's grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, who is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski ... *Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray*, who is at home.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Words: Brian, Lisa, Michael, Corey and Olivia* have been out of town this past week in Florida... *June Calvert* was back home Wednesday night after being out of town over the weekend.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will

be the time for Communication group two to meet after our evening service. If you are in group two, plan to meet this evening.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: *Monroe and Yvonne Pressnell* have expressed their desire to be members of the church here at Anderson. Monroe and Yvonne are no strangers to the church here having been members here in the past and Monroe having served as one of our elders. We are thrilled to have them back and extend to them a warm welcome home.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Cartwright church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. The speakers are as follows: Sunday– *Ernest Campbell, Monday – Dan Binkley; Tuesday & Wednesday – David Cox* ... The *Eastside church* in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Steve Klien* will be the speaker... The *South Fayetteville church* in Fayetteville, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will also continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Norm Webb, Jr.* will be speaker... The *Brookhill church* in Killen is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. *Bob Buchanon of Bowling Green, Kentucky* will be the speaker ... The *East Florence church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Bob Waldron of Athens* will be the speaker.

THE RECORD: *Averages for 1st Qtr. 2003*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 86
 Morning Worship 101
 Evening Worship 78

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 69

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

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

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
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