

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 27th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Bible Reading (Psalm 98)

..... Mark McIntyre

Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Presiding Claus Martel

Serving Aric Butler

..... Curtis Mosley

..... Jim Phillips

Closing Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Jim Phillips

Bible Reading (Psalm 99)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

Lord's Supper

..... Claus Martel

Closing Prayer

..... Chase Williams

Volume X

April 27, 2003

No. 17

The Final Appointment

W. Frank Walton

"It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

As surely as we are here today, one day we will surely not be here. Have you thought about where you will be one second after death? You probably have known classmates at school who meet a sudden, unexpected death. Yes, death is real. Judgment is certain. Yet, God has the key to our destiny. That can be great news!

My daughter, Rachel, came across this poem, entitled "Death." For an assignment at school, she shared this with her Jr. High class:

What a Great Teacher you are. Yet few of us elect to learn from you, About life. That is the essence of death's teaching, Life. Death is not an elective. One day we all will take the class. The wise students audit the class in early years And find enlightenment. They are prepared when graduation day comes.

By Bernie Sigel

"It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, because that is the end of every man, and the living takes it to heart" (Ecclesiastes 7:2). There are some important things we can only learn at a funeral and not at a party. Get serious. This isn't being morbid; it's being real! Sooner or later, we will all die. Therefore, we are not prepared to live fulfilled until we're prepared to die. The most important day in a person's life isn't the day he was born, but it is the day he figures out WHY he was born. We are born a blank slate. What you become is by your choice.

We realize we will face God. Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2). So, our greatest need for the final appointment is to find a Savior who will prepare us with purpose and direction. The Hebrew

writer continues: “So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him” (Hebrews 9:28). Jesus is the key to life and death (John 11:25-26, 14:6). He came from heaven to show us the way out of this world. He alone gives assurance of life beyond the grave, because he alone died and came back to tell us about it. This, no psychic nor rock star nor celebrity has ever done.

Will you let Jesus showed you how to live and how to die by faith in Him? “He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Hebrews 5:9). I encourage you to read the Gospel According to John to let the risen Jesus personally prepare you for your final appointment.

—via *Silver Street Bulletin*, New Albany, Indiana



Renewing The Mind

Dan S. Shipley

In New Testament writings sinners are often referred to as men with reprobate minds (Romans 1:28) corrupt minds (1Timothy 6:5), defiled minds (Titus 1:15) and as men that “walk in the vanity of their mind” (Ephesians 4:17). In Colossians 1:21, Paul reminds some that they were in times past “alienated and enemies in your mind.” Such minds reflect wrong attitudes. They show dispositions of hostility and antagonism toward God and the things of God. Making the transition from sinner to saint involves changing such minds and altering such attitudes.

The process by which this radical and essential change is effected is called “renewing” (Gr. *anakainosis*). Romans 12:2 shows it to be the basis for transforming the life: “And be not

fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...” So then, meaningful change – change of character, involves more than external reforms and outward acts; it means changing the mind (heart) from whence are the issues of life (Proverbs 4:23, Mathew 15:19,20). It means “the adjustment of the moral and spiritual vision and thinking to the mind of God” (Vine). Essentially, to have this renewed mind is to have the mind of Christ (1Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5). It is to have and be influenced by the Divine viewpoint instead of the human viewpoint; by the spiritual instead of the carnal. Nothing is more essential to or characteristic of the “new man” (Colossians 3:10) and his “newness of life” (Romans 6:4) than this renewed mind. And of no less importance is the means of its renewal. How does God seek to change the minds of sinful men?

Contrary to many popular concepts, only the gospel of Christ can change and renew the minds of men as God intended. Nothing but God’s truth can make believers out of unbelievers. Belief (a function of the mind) comes from hearing Divine testimony (Romans 10:17). This is according to prophecy concerning the new covenant wherein the Lord says “I will put my laws into their mind and on their heart also will I write them” (Hebrews 8:10). The faith by which men are motivated to “transformed” living is derived from the word of God (John 20:30, 31). It is no coincidence that in every case of conversion recorded in the New Testament, what was done was based on something that was learned and believed.

For example, the obedience of the Pentecostians was in response to what they had heard (Acts 2:37); their baptism was in consequence of “receiving his word” (v.41) and their subsequent activities were directed by the “apostles’ teaching” (v. 42). In receiving the knowledge of the truth (Hebrews 10:26) these crucifiers of Jesus became informed and enlightened in their understanding; thus, believed and obeyed and received the remission of their sins.

This corresponds exactly to the description of the saved as given by Peter in which he refers to them as those who “have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord...” (2Peter 2:20).

Yes, their conversion was an “experience” – but it was an experience with God’s truth. And that’s the only kind that can renew the mind – and the life. All men need such experiences-for eternity’s sake.

~via *Plain Talk*, Burnet, Texas.



“Unto The End...”

Jim R. Everett

How do you feel about someone who starts a sentence and never...? How about someone who starts a job but never gets around to completing it? Do you feel that you owe a man pay when he does not finish a job for which he has been contracted? Do you expect to win the prize, if you do not cross the finish line? For some reason we understand that truth as it applies to our physical world but seem to think that it will not apply in eternity.

We do not receive the crown of life until the end (cf. 2 Timothy 4:6-8) – “...I have finished the course...” Paul said, “henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.” The crown does not adorn the head of the weak, indifferent, worldly minded, negligent, quitters. It is always our prayer, as it was the Hebrew writer’s, that “...we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end. That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises” (Hebrews 6:11-12).

Starting is the easy part -- it is the finishing,

the grinding it out when it hurts, the bearing up under exasperation, the enduring when it seems there is no end in sight – that is the hard part. Sometimes folks start walking the narrow way but it becomes too difficult and the price is too great to pay. Like the shallow soil, there is no depth and they quickly fall away (Matthew 13:5, 21). If we do not faithfully endure to the end, there is no crown of life.

~via *Cedar Park Bulletin*, Cedar Prk, Texas



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.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Billy Haraway* is at home and had a treatment on Friday in Florence ...*Ronnie Phillips* was not able to be out Wednesday due to his back problems ...*Amber Hammond* was not feeling well and able to be at Bible Study Wednesday night ...*Faye Hammond* received a botox shot in her left arm on Thursday. Hopefully this will help her rehabilitation ...*C.L. Weathers* is better now after being sick and having to leave Bible study Wednesday night ...*Hubert Goode*

is at home ... *Janice Glass' 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 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.

ACTIVITY FORMS: It is time again for every one to fill out the activity forms. They are on the table in the vestibule. Please get one and fill it out as soon as possible and give it to Phil Pressnell or place in the white box in the vestibule.

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

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Sam Noles and all the family* in the passing of Sam's sister, *Bonnie Shelton*, this past week. Her funeral was Wednesday in Pulaski.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Gooch Lane church* in Madison is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. The speakers will be as follows: *Sunday – Allen Dvorak; Monday – Ken Green; Tuesday – Eugene Britnell; Wednesday – Bob Waldron; Thursday – David Tant; Friday – Harold Comer.*

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.

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
- Larry White (256) 247-0988

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