

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, May 11th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Bible Reading (Psalm 103:1-18)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Mark McIntyre

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Prayer

..... Monroe Pressnell

Presiding Larry White

Serving Daniel Clemmons

..... Jim Phillips

..... Jason White

Closing Prayer

..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Bible Reading .. (Psalm 103:19-22)

..... Aric Butler

Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Lord's Supper

..... Larry White

Closing Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

Volume X

May 11, 2003

No. 19

On Our Pledge of Allegiance

David Posey

As I write this, there has been much discussion about the Ninth District Court's declaring the pledge of allegiance unconstitutional because it uses God's name. We could take some space to denounce the decision and offer it up as another example of our nation's corruption. But that is probably not a good use of the space. This court is notoriously liberal and its decisions routinely overturned by the Supreme Court, especially in high profile cases like this.

Perhaps it is more profitable to allow the decision to awaken a more personal question: to whom or what do we pledge allegiance? In reading and hearing what some of my brethren are saying, I get the impression that they have pledged allegiance to someone or something other than Christ.

For example, some seem loyal to the past and can see only evil in the present day. One's personal history is given an almost mystical power in the man's life. It was so much better back then, is the main story line, and unless we return to the spirit of those halcyon days, we are doomed.

There are at least two problems with this view: First, the times weren't that good, unless you like argument, division and disunity. Yes, much of the division became necessary (1 Corinthians 11:19). But I'd rather hold up Jesus' prayer that "we all be one" in John 17 as the ideal for which we strive, rather than 1940s & 50s America. (2) Inspired scripture warns us not to talk like this! "Do not say, 'Why is it that the former days were better than these?' For it is not from wisdom that you ask about this" (Ecclesiastes 7:10).

In connection with this, some have glorified certain men in a

Sin Is “Against God”

Robert F. Turner

way that seems most inappropriate. For example, I don't doubt that Foy E. Wallace, Jr. was a great speaker who could keep audiences spellbound for hours at a time. But does that make him “the prince of preachers,” as one writer observed? Perhaps so, if preachers are measured only by style and speaking ability. But if measured by the things Paul seemed to believe were important – hard work, being an example, and staying true to the gospel – then no, brother Wallace, with all due respect to his abilities, is not the prince of preachers. In his later years, he forsook the truth and cast his lot with brethren who did not appreciate the authority of scripture. And, really, brethren, isn't there only one “Prince” of preachers?

Today, some have exalted certain men or groups of men in the same way. A man once told me in a letter that evangelism consists in getting people to “line up behind you.” Others have trumpeted the importance of surrounding oneself with “counselors.” Yes, “in the abundance of counselors there is victory,” as the proverb says (11:14). But that victory is totally dependent on whom we choose for our counselors. If we only choose counselors of a certain stripe, we make ourselves vulnerable to the error of Rehoboam, who chose the wrong counselors and split the kingdom of Israel! Jesus warned of those who choose their “counselors” for the purpose of justifying themselves before themselves (Luke 16:15), and Paul warned against the foolishness of those who measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves among themselves (2 Corinthians 10:12).

That's the sectarian spirit, lock, stock and barrel.

Once we pledge our allegiance to the Lord, everything else, and everyone else falls in behind Him. Ultimately, that's the only pledge that counts.

-via *Folsom View*, Folsom, California

Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00.

If you steal my rifle, you will do me a grave injustice. Realizing this, you may decide to return the rifle and ask my forgiveness. You may throw in a new scope to make me happy, but you have not paid your just dues.

Perhaps you think I mean your debt to society. Well, we have obligations to our fellowmen, and the courts may exact a fine, or place you in jail for stealing the rifle. But you could completely satisfy me, wipe clean the records of the court, and still fail the obligations of justice. In fact, we have not yet given consideration to the primary matter.

In the initial act of stealing the rifle you not only did me an injustice, you not only sinned against our society – far more important, you failed your intended purpose and rejected the authority of your Maker. You have sinned against God! This is the fundamental factor in sin, yet it is the part very often ignored – both in recognizing sin, and in “making things right.” God existed prior to society, and deserves the prior consideration. All sin is against God!

David got right to the point when he prayed, “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight” (Psalm.51:4). On this basis God was just in condemning and David looked to God for forgiveness. We need many Davids today.

Christ has the prodigal son confess, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight.” (Luke 15:21). The order is significant. Twice this statement is made in the parable, and always, “against heaven” first. How differently we might look upon our sins if this order would prevail.

Paul says “godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death” (2 Corinthians 7:10). It is not enough that we

“regret” our sins. Such regrets may stem from getting caught. Our sorrow must be in recognition of our failure before God, and our turning in keeping with His will. It is this concept of sin that makes us aware of its depth, and of our complete dependence upon God for forgiveness. Next time you sin don’t “look out” – **look up**”.

~via *Plain Talk*, Burnet, Texas.



Remember next Sunday evening, May 18th, is the time for our regular scheduled song service. Claus Martel will be directing the service. I hope all of us will make our plans to attend as we sing songs of praise to God.

Choosing Salvation

Phillip Mullins

Have you ever heard religious people talk about the time that they “got saved”? Some tell of a vision, a voice in the dark, or a special feeling overwhelming the body. By the way they describe their “salvation experience” it seems as if they had no choice in the matter and that Christ came into their life uninvited. Is this the kind of salvation the Bible talks about?

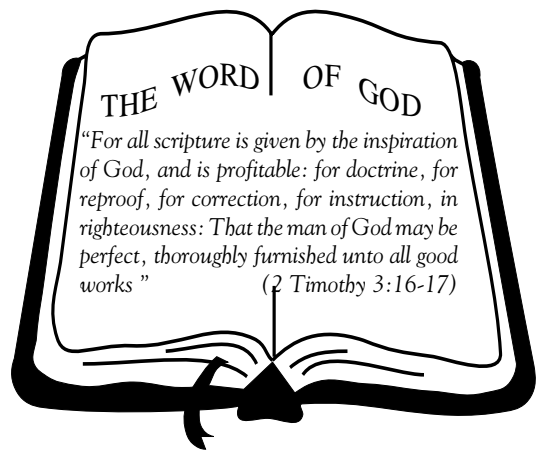
In Acts 2 after preaching salvation in Christ and telling his audience to repent and be baptized, Peter goes on to state in verse 39, “For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” And how does the Lord call us? In the same manner He called these people at Pentecost, through the preaching of the saving gospel of

Jesus Christ.

In verse 40 Peter encourages these people to “...Be saved from this perverse generation.” The apostle was making a plea for these people to respond to the call of the gospel. It is obvious here that they had a choice in the matter. God has never forced himself on man, but rather He has always given man the option of having fellowship with Him or not.

Don’t expect to receive salvation through some incredible experience that storms into your life unexpectedly. That is not the way that God saves. Instead, He reaches out through the blessed gospel of His Son. Whether you reach out to Him or not is up to you.

~via *Kingsport Messages*, Kingsport, Tennessee.



News and Notes

THE SICK: *Billy Haraway* continues his treatments each Friday in Florence and has not been feeling as well this week ... *Henry Trousdale* was not able to be out Wednesday due to not feeling well ... *Taylor Mosley* has been sick this past week due to trying to cut teeth and has not been

able to be at services... **James Word** was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... **Corey Word** was not able to be out Wednesday due to not feeling well... **Amber Hammond** was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick over the weekend ... **Hubert Goode** continues 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: Remember, if you have not already picked-up and filled out an activity form, please pick one up today and fill it out soon. There are some forms on the table in the vestibule. Return to **Phil Pressnell** or place in the white box in the vestibule. We need to get all of these forms turned in as soon as possible.

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.



Vacation Bible School

June 2-6 – 10:00 a.m.

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

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
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