

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, July 27th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Bible Reading .. (Psalm 119:65-72)

..... Aric Butler

Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Prayer

..... Monroe Pressnell

Presiding Larry White

Serving Ray Tucker

..... Jason White

..... Jimmy Glass

Closing Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Jim Phillips

Bible Reading .. (Psalm 119:73-80)

..... Daniel Clemmons

Prayer

..... James Word

Lord's Supper

..... Larry White

Closing Prayer

..... Jimmy Glass

Volume X

July 27, 2003

No. 30

We're Almost Home

Bryan Loughmiller

When my children were younger and we would go away on a trip the return home was usually quiet until we were almost home. "Are we there yet?" was a frequent question asked and we would always alert them to our almost being home. The boy's nana had taught them a little song "We're almost home, we're almost home..." and they would begin singing this song when we were just a few minutes away from the house. When we finally pulled into the driveway with a shout of joy they would sing out "we're home." There was almost an overwhelming sense of relief and comfort for each of us knowing we were home.

This song has been echoing through my mind since that tragic Saturday morning Feb. 1, 2003. It made me think of the astronauts coming home on the space shuttle Columbia. The men and women on board had been in orbit several days performing important scientific experiments; their work had been completed and deemed to be successful. They were almost home when NASA lost communication with their orbiter; Columbia disintegrated above the states of Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Their families were just a few minutes away and I can only imagine the anticipation of each of the seven astronauts as they drew nearer to the landing strip in east Florida. They were probably thinking to themselves "we're almost home" when in the blink of an eye disaster struck, their lives were taken. There would have been cheers of joy from those who awaited them, instead those cheers have been turned into tears; happiness and excitement have changed to heartbreak and sorrow.

As I watched MSNBC that morning in disbelief, I was once again forced to deal with my mortality in light of another horrible tragedy. I know that when men are born at some point in the future

they will die; this fact is undeniable (Hebrews 9:27). However, this does not make it any easier to accept the suddenness of an event like this. I know that life "...is but a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away" (James 4:14), but it does not mean that I should be cold-hearted and not be affected by the loss of others' lives. I was not alone in my weeping, because the whole nation sat in shock as they wept for the loved ones who lost their beloved family members.

Following this tragedy there should be one question that everyone should be asking, "What is the most important thing in life?" The answer to this is a lesson for all ages. I am aware there were scientific experiments performed on Columbia's sixteen-day voyage but they were not the most important things in life. The most important thing is what we do with the days of our lives between birth and death, because they prepare us to meet our God. Many men may fear death because they choose to live their lives selfishly without regard for the things of God. Let me suggest to you that if you live your life for Christ then there is nothing to fear in death. The apostle Paul said, "For to me, to live is Christ, to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21) he could say this with boldness because he chose to let Christ live in him (Galatians 2:20).

Live your life for Jesus, there is joy and happiness in a life that is filled with the Son of God. Fear of death is not a concern because the child of God knows that in death there is no victory or sting, but victory lies in Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:55-57). Fear is overcome with the anticipation of a royal crown given to faithful saints, a mansion that sits over the hilltop and spending eternity in the presence of God. With each passing day our salvation draws nearer, the time when we will stand before God and give an account of things done in the flesh approaches. With each day we draw closer to home, yes, "we're almost home." Are you prepared to meet your God?

-via *Focus Magazine*; Vol. 7 No. 1

The Importance of Bible Classes

Johnie Edwards

Our children are said to be "a heritage of the Lord" (Psalm 127:3). Children will only be what they have been taught to be. The wise man said, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Every parent needs to know the importance of bringing their children to Bible study because:

1. Teaching children is a command. Joel said, "Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation" (Joel 1:3). A good way to assist parents in this work is to be sure they are in a good Bible class. Are you bringing yours?

2. Children and the future. What this church will be like in few years depends on how our children are now being taught. A lot of churches are filled with only older people with no children coming on! Some get upset at the crying, not me. I am disturbed when there are no children present to cry! No wonder the Bible says, "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Bible study will help in carrying out this grave responsibility. Bring them to Bible study!

3. To get them ready to obey. Many of our young people who obey the gospel are those who have been in Bible classes. Just observe and you will see! Not many young people are baptized who have not been in Bible study. The reason: One has to be taught before he can obey (Matthew 28:19). Will yours be ready?

4. Of their influence. Young people either have influence for good or bad. Often those who have not been to Bible study leave a bad influence on other young people. Paul wrote a young man, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in

conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). See that your children are in a good Bible class to help teach them the importance of being a good example.

-via *Guardian of Truth*; Vol. 47 No. 12



Two Girls Want To Date Jerry

Bill Hall

Jerry is a bright young man with a great future. He is a Christian, genuinely dedicated to pleasing the Lord and preparing for heaven. Two girls recognize these great qualities and want to date Jerry, but their approach is considerably different.

The first girl tries to attract Jerry by worldly means. She relies on her physical beauty and “up-to-date wardrobe. She turns on the charm anytime he is around and is quite forward in his presence. She owns her own car and seeks to use that cherished commodity to the greatest possible advantage. She is a member of the church and attends regularly, but material values obviously outweigh spiritual values in her life. She had some good qualities, but she is placing much emphasis on outward appearance that it is difficult for one to penetrate the veneer to see her real character.

The second girl makes no obvious effort to attract Jerry at all, for her “meek and quiet spirit” could never allow her to be forward or flirtatious. In her effort to please God, she seeks to develop spiritual qualities in her life, and she would like to think that these spiritual qualities would make her attractive to a spiritual young man. Because she is Christ-like, she is warm, friendly, sympa-

thetic, concerned, the kind of person one can feel close to, and she manifests these qualities in Jerry’s presence as she does toward all her acquaintances. She does not possess the physical beauty of the first girl, but she is neat and wholesome in appearance and possesses a beauty from within, which “*is very precious in the sight of God*” (1 Peter 3:4).

Which girl is Jerry most likely to date? We are not sure. We have seen boys who, flattered by the attention of flirtatious girls, have made poor choices. And Jerry could make that mistake. But, knowing Jerry, we are quite sure that he will distinguish the girl who will make a great date from the one who will make a great wife, and will choose the later.

Two vital questions remain to be asked. Girls, which one of the two girls correctly depicts you? Boys, which would you choose for a date? Young people who love the Lord choose mates that will help them to go to heaven.

-via *The Word at West Fayetteville*; Fayetteville, NC

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Mary Best* is now at home, but will continue her treatments each morning in Columbia... *Hubert Goode* continues at home ... *Myrtie Williams* suffered a fall this past week and is in a back brace at home... *Judy Williams* had surgery on Friday in Little Rock to repair the cartilage in her knee... *Eddie Hammond's father, Berl Hammond*, is at home and is not doing well at all... *Billy Haraway* continues his treatments, but has been able to be at services on

Sunday ... *Cindy Pressnell's aunt and Billy Haraway's cousin, Corine Carter*, is battling cancer...*James Albert McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell*, at home... *Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis*, is continuing his treatments for his cancer ... 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 ...*Faye Hammond* continues 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...*Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray*, staying with family.

OUT OF TOWN: *Buffy and Ethan Wallen* have been out of town this week in Panama City, Florida...*June Calvert* is out of town.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the time for Communication Group four to meet. If your are in group four, plan to meet this evening.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *New Hope church* in Limestone county is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services each evening at 7:30 p.m. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting. They will have a children's class beginning at 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the Week of July 20th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 91
 Morning Worship 120
 Evening Worship 60

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 84

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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