

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, August 17th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Bible Reading (Psalm 119:137-144)

..... Phil Pressnell

Prayer

..... Aric Butler

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Presiding Claus Martel

Serving Aric Butler

..... Ethan Pressnell

..... Corey Goode

Closing Prayer

..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Bible Reading (Psalm 119:145-152)

..... Aric Butler

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Lord's Supper

..... Mark McIntyre

Closing Prayer

..... Jerry Dickey

Volume X

August 17, 2003

No. 33

Seeing Beyond The Grave

David A. Cox

It seems that one of the biggest problems there may be in the lives of many people is seeing beyond the grave. Many things that disturb people the most in this life fade into deep insignificance when we view life beyond the grave. Many seem to live life with a view that as long as people can say good about them that everything will be all right in eternity. In considering this thought, I believe we would do well to examine what the scriptures teach.

Facing God Beyond The Grave

There is more than this life. The Bible says concerning death, that "the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 12:7). In Hebrews 9:27 we read, "And as it is appointed unto man once to die, but after death the judgement." It is clear from the scriptures, that after this life the spirit of man will return to God for judgement. In this judgement man will not be judged on what people thought of him, but how he lived in accordance with the Lord's will. In Romans 14:12, "So then every man shall give account of himself to God." In 2 Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." Beyond the grave we will face God to be judged according to His will (Matthew 7:21-24; John 12:48).

What Does This Mean?

The question may well be asked, "What does this mean?" It means that it really does not matter the praise of men one may have or what one's reputation among men may be. Rather, What really matters is how man is viewed by God that matters. In Jesus' day he

spoke of those that believed on Him, but would not confess Him “For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:43). As it was then, there are some today that cannot see beyond the grave because of the praise, prestige, and position of honor that they hold among men.

But what is the fate of such people? The answer to this is best seen in the sermon on the mount when Jesus pictures the judgement scene and says, “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?” (Matthew 7:22). He says that there are those that will have done many wonderful things in the eyes of men. On this side of the grave they looked exceptional to men. But notice Jesus’ response, “And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:23). We must learn to see beyond the grave and to view our lives as God views them.

How would God view your life? Would God be pleased or not? We must understand that it does matter what we do on this side of the grave. And what we do or do not do will depend where we spend eternity on the other side of the grave. May we learn to live in this life with the view of eternity and to see our life beyond the grave.



Remember:

- What?** Young Adult Home Bible Study
- When?** Sunday, August 31st following our evening service.
- Where?** At the home of David & Kerry Cox
- Subject?** Restoration History

The Truth

Russ Bowman

The truth is tough. It is tough because we learned early in life to develop a kind of love/hate relationship with truth – the expression of reality. As children, we learned that it is important to tell the truth. Yet, very often, our early experiences with the concept of truth revolved around some misdeed, and we were painfully aware that an admission carried with it some unpleasant consequences. The truth is right, but the truth brings pain. A lie is wrong, but a lie might deliver from pain. Certainly such reasoning is responsible for more than one childhood deception. And, for most of us such begins our life-long relationship with the concept of truth.

The dilemma of truth does not change much as we mature. Most people despise, with a passion, being the victim of deception. We rail against “bait and switch” advertising. We scream “foul” when someone cheats to gain an advantage over us in business. We want truth, justice, and reality. We expect honesty, respect, reliability, demand accuracy. That is until it hurts us personally. A little “under the table” dishonesty isn’t as disturbing when it benefits my business or job understanding. We are quite as adamant about “rephrasing” the truth when we stand in danger of severe consequences. And, what my spouse doesn’t know certainly won’t hurt her. It’s funny how our disposition toward truth changes with the consequences of reality.

Thus, the truth is tough. A strict adherence to it can be painful because it causes me to acknowledge my own deficiencies. And yet, we also understand that a devotion to truth will be beneficial in the long run. The old “honesty is the best policy” adage has been affirmed time and again to be ...well, true.

God places great emphasis upon truth. He lists a disregard for truth among the seven things that he considers abominable – twice (Proverbs

6:16-19). He describes the inhabitant of His dwelling place as one who “speaks the truth in his heart...who swears to his own hurt and does not change” (Psalm 15:2-4). In Philippians 4:8, Christians are instructed to meditate upon “whatever things are true,” and John reminds us to “not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18). But the most significant way in which God endorses truth is found in the way that He describes the Lord and His revelation. Jesus is described as the very expression of reality — “We beheld His glory...full of grace and truth” (John 1:14) “and grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:17). Jesus uses the concept to describe Himself in John 14:6 and promotes his teachings as “the truth” (John 8:31-51). As the very manifestation of God, Jesus is truly the expression of reality. Moreover, God’s will, as it has been revealed by and through Christ, is also well designated as the expression of reality—“Thy word is truth” (John 17:17). Thus, the apostles refer to the word of God over and over as “the truth” (2 Thessalonians 2:10-13; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 10:26; 1 Peter 1:22).

All this being true...we find ourselves yet again faced with the tough nature of truth. The truth is that the Bible tells us the reality about our design, our destiny, and our own weaknesses and failings, and forces us to consider the sacrifices that God has made for us, and that He demands we make for Him. Reality says that we aren’t mere animals; that we can control ourselves; that certain behaviors are immoral and wrong. Reality demands that we pattern ourselves after God, and that we pursue His will in His way, whether in worship or character or family roles or moral issues. Reality argues that the way to eternal life is difficult...“and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:14). Reality requires that one who would follow Christ be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 22:16). Truth flies in the face of our traditions. Truth challenges our selfishness. Truth confronts our apathy, our lethargy, and our lukewarmness. Truth is uncomfortable. In

acknowledging truth, we come face-to-face with our own accountability. Ignoring truth, while turning our mind away from responsibility and discipline for a while, will ultimately expose us to the harsh punishment from which there will be no escape (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12). The truth is still tough.

In the end, our eternal destiny will be completely dependent upon our attitude toward truth. In John 8:31-32, Jesus notes, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” Discipleship is not measured by empty claims, false allegiance or selfish innovation, but by obedience to God’s Word – the truth.

—via *What Is True?*; Little Rock, Arkansas.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Mary Best* continues at home, but continues to go to Columbia, Tennessee each morning for her treatments. She has five more treatments to take this week ... *Hubert Goode* continues at home ... *Myrtie Williams* is at home following her surgery last week... *Jean Ray* is now home following her nearly two week stay in the hospital... *Billy Haraway* is at home ... *Wanda Tucker’s father, Billy Letson*, was released from the hospital this past Thursday ... *Scottie & Shelia Goode* were both sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *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 ... *James*

McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell, continues at home... *Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, continues 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*, is staying with family.

SONG PRACTICE Remember this afternoon at 5:15 we will meet for our song practice. During this time our young men lead some songs in developing themselves to be song leaders and we sing some new songs or songs that we are not as familiar with. I hope that everyone will plan to be here at 5:15 to encourage our young men.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Underwood Heights church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Maurice Barnett* will be the speaker in this meeting.

OUT OF TOWN: *Jerry Dickey* has been away this week with his work in Michigan... *Claus Martel* has been out of town again this week with his work.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the night for Communication group three to meet following our evening service. If you are in group three remember to meet with you group this evening.

THE RECORD: *For the Week of August 10th*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 80
 Morning Worship 102
 Evening Worship 72

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 88

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

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Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
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