

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 24th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Bible Reading (Psalm 119:161-168)

..... Curtis Mosley

Prayer

..... Claus Martel

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Prayer

..... Brian Word

Presiding Jerry Dickey

Serving Phil Pressnell

..... Daniel Clemmons

..... Jason White

Closing Prayer

..... Monroe Pressnell

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Chase Williams

Bible Reading (Psalm 119:169-176)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

Lord's Supper

..... Jerry Dickey

Closing Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

Volume X

August 24, 2003

No. 34

Realizing Our Great Salvation

Randy Harshbarger

What would you say to an apathetic Christian? Is there any spiritual advice you might offer that would shake someone out of their spiritual dullness? What is the greatest threat to the purity and faithfulness of God's people today? New Testament Christians struggled through trials and persecutions (Hebrews 11). They contended with faith problems (Hebrews 3). Some lost their spiritual focus and turned away from Christ (Hebrews 6:4-6). The social gospel, cults, "felt needs," a this-world reward mentality, etc., pose threats to believers and unbelievers alike. Still, it seems even more tragic when those who "were once enlightened" fall away. Does the devil work harder to gain and keep those who have been exposed to the truth? What can we say to encourage continued fidelity to the Lord?

The Hebrew Christians were told: "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest haply we drift away from them" (Hebrews 2:1). We must make sure we are not carried beyond the point of no return. The great, superior, salvation Christ provides demands our utmost care and concentration. Just as boats are sometimes adrift at sea, floating aimlessly, with neither chart or compass, Christians who do not listen to Christ will drift away. The Hebrew writer strengthens his argument by saying: "For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Hebrews 2:2-3). Here the argument is from the lesser to the greater. First, the Old Law was mediated by angels (cf. Acts 7:53). Second, if God meant what He said through His law given to the

Jews (and He did), and if that law could not be resisted without punishment (which it could not be), then how much more is our responsibility to pay attention to the will of God in these last days which is expressed through Jesus Christ, the one who is superior to the angels. With the Old Law came the imposition of pain and penalty; the Jews were exhorted to obey God. If that is true (and it is), then how much more are we to listen to the message spoken by the Lord. This message was "confirmed" through the ministration of the Holy Spirit: "God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders, and by manifold powers, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will" (Hebrews 2:4).

The message of Jesus Christ is redemptive in nature. Lost in sin, men and women must look to the perfect, adequate sacrifice in order to be saved. But the message of Christ also is uncompromising in its demands. Jesus, as the way, the truth, and the life, is clear about our need to come only to Him. That was the fundamental mistake made by the Hebrew Christians. They jeopardized their spiritual standing before Christ by reverting back to Judaism. Christ is not simply one voice among many. He is the final, ultimate voice to all men for all time.

How will this help me shore up my faith and commitment to Christ? First, Christ gives me confidence. His salvation is great. Second, this great salvation demands my complete commitment to the seriousness of service to Jesus. Serving the Lord is not an "all you can eat Sunday morning breakfast buffet." It is an all or nothing proposition. Those who merely play around at serving Christ evidence a lack of faith, and will finally perish in the wilderness of sin and rebellion. Jesus had given us every opportunity to know and understand that His salvation is great. When are we going to start acting like we believe Him?

-via *Stallings Drive Bulletin*, Nacogdoches, Texas.

Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00.

Water Baptism Is Necessary!

Allen Dvorak

It was an unusual day. First, the sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind filled the house. What appeared to be tongues of fire sat upon each the men inside the house. Those same men, the apostles of Jesus, began to speak in foreign languages, in languages which they did not know.

The news about the events taking place began to spread through the city of Jerusalem. Soon a crowd had gathered to see and hear what was going on, but they were confused. Were these men drunk? Among the Jews in the crowd were those who had come from many other places to observe religious feasts in Jerusalem. They were amazed that these men from Galilee were speaking in languages which they had not studied.

The twelve stood up and spoke to the crowd about what was happening. In essence, they said, "It's not drunkenness. This is what the prophet Joel predicted. The Holy Spirit would be poured out and those who received Him would prophesy." The apostles continued to speak to the crowd about Jesus.

They affirmed the truth of the resurrection of Jesus by noting Old Testament prophecy and giving their own eyewitness testimony. Jesus had been exalted to the right hand of God and was already reigning as Lord in heaven. No political correctness for these preachers! They stated plainly more than once that the Jewish nation had put the Son of God to death!

The message of the preachers on this day touched the hearts of the listeners. They asked, "What shall we do?" They believed that Jesus had been raised from the dead and was therefore the Son of God as He had claimed. Many people today would have told them that they didn't have to **do** anything; they were **already** saved!

The apostle Peter, however, did not tell them

that they were already saved, even though it was evident that they both believed and were aware of their sin in crucifying the Christ (as evidenced by their question to the apostles). He said that they needed to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission (forgiveness) of sins. About three thousand people did exactly that – they were baptized and the Lord added them to His church.

Many preachers are telling people today that they do not need to be baptized to be saved. Water baptism, it is said, is only a symbolic act which pictures our salvation at the point of faith. The Bible, on the other hand, says that baptism saves us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:21). How can baptism be unnecessary for salvation if it is "for the remission of sins"? The apostle Paul wrote that we are baptized into Christ and that, in so doing, we "put on Christ" (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:26-27).

If you want to read for yourself the story of that unusual day, the Day of Pentecost, it is recorded in Acts 2.

-via *Teaching Truth*; Madison, Alabama



The Bible Stands

T. Doy Moyer

Sir Isaac Newton once said, "No sciences are better attested than the religion of the Bible." He was right. Science (particularly natural science) is ever-changing. What is cherished today as a theory may be spurned tomorrow as bad science.

However, the Bible has withstood all of the changing theories of science. While ideas and theories have come and gone, the Bible continues as strong as ever. To believers, this is no surprise.

Peter, by inspiration, wrote that the word of God is incorruptible, and "lives and abides for-

ever," because "all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever" (1 Peter 1:23-25).

People may mock the Bible, but they cannot explain how it has out-lasted every human theory. Shouldn't an honest person at the very least want to consider it? Take hold of it, for in it is the way to our own immortality.

-via *Topics For Thought*, Haleyville, Alabama..



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

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Mary Best* is at home now after spending a few days at Centennial Hospital in Nashville this week. The reports from her tests done this week were not good ... *Hubert Goode* continues at home ... *Myrtie Williams* continues recovering from her recent surgery ... *Jean Ray* is making improvement ... *Billy Haraway* is at home ... *Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson*, continues at the Tuckers ... *Corey Goode* has not been able to be services this past week due to back problems. He is doing some better now ... *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.

NEW BABY: We want to congratulate *Jim and Brooke Phillips* on the birth of their son, *Samuel Parker*, on Friday morning. He weighed 8 lbs. 4 ozs. He and Brooke continue in the Crestwood Hospital in Huntsville. Also, we congratulate *Ronnie and Lou Ann Phillips* on becoming proud grandparents.

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

NEW DIRECTORY: I am currently updating and compiling a new directory. If you have or know of any changes that need to be made to what is in the old directory, please let me know. I would especially like to make sure I have your e-mail addresses if they are not in the old directory. I hope to get the new one out in the next few weeks.

THE RECORD: *For the Week of August 17th*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 85
 Morning Worship 106
 Evening Worship 80

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 77

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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