

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 3rd

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Bible Reading .. (Psalm 119:89-96)

..... Mike Rogers

Prayer

..... Monroe Pressnell

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Prayer

..... Jerry Dickey

Presiding Rocky Rose

Serving Ray Tucker

..... Aric Butler

..... Jimmy Glass

Closing Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Claus Martel

Bible Reading (Psalm 119:97-104)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

Lord's Supper

..... Rocky Rose

Closing Prayer

..... Larry White

Volume X

August 3, 2003

No. 31

"He Is Acquainted With All Our Ways"

Kent E. Heaton, Sr.

He knows everything we have done in our lives. He has seen us when we were in the darkness and known us while we were in the light. Each thought that has passed through our minds is treasured in His knowledge. From birth, every word spoken has been recorded and each action transcribed.

When we were sorrowful, He knew. When we were happy, He knew. Our successes and failures were registered. From the early days of school until the passing of our formal education, He was there. In the social engagements of courting, He was always there. Each business deal concluded was in His presence. Every agreement made was sealed with His knowledge.

The number of hairs on the head is known by Him as even the stars above are numbered. He knows all who have ever lived and every thought, action, word and deed they have done. At each moment and each second of each day, He knows everything that happens. From the four corners of the earth to the heavens above, all things are revealed to Him..

How great and how wonderful is the God of Heaven. David proclaims the perfect knowledge and greatness of Jehovah God in Psalm 139 –

"O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; you understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, and

laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it.”

David asks where could he go to flee from the presence of God. He recognizes the impossibility of such because God was even aware of David’s from in the womb. He says, “How precious also are thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with You.”

There is nothing that God does not know about us. To consider the mind of God and be able to comprehend His vast knowledge is beyond the realm of man’s knowledge. How vast and how wonderful are His ways and His knowledge; and yet, we sometimes believe that we can do things without His knowledge.

Adam tried to hide from God in the garden of Eden. Lot’s wife turned around one time when fleeing the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Achan stole some bounty from the city of Jericho and hid it under his tent. Jonah tried to flee from God when God gave him instructions to preach to the city of Nineveh. Judas sought to betray his Lord in secret. Ananias and Sapphira tried to lie about the offering they were giving in Acts 5. In these cases and many more — God was acquainted with all those ways.

Adam was found and expelled from the garden, Lot’s wife was turned into a pillar of salt, Achan, along with his family, was stoned and burned, Jonah was swallowed by a great fish, Jesus exposed Judas as the betrayer and Ananias and Sapphira were struck down dead where they stood. God knows all things and nothing escapes His attention.

Has God changed that He does not know our rising up and our sitting down? When we are in secret, God is there. When we are in jobs, our families, our recreation and each thing that we do — or say — or think — **God Is There!** Where can you go to flee the presence of God? Ask David in Psalm 139.

—via *The Stonegate Standard*; Port Arthur, Texas.

Sacrifices

Jeff May

The Bible is a book about sacrifice. I’ve often thought that the trek of the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan was a trail of blood. Undoubtedly blood saturated the ground in many of their campsites due to the great number of sacrifices they offered unto God: sacrifices to atone for their sins, sacrifices of dedication to God, sacrifices of thanksgiving, and sacrifices of celebration. At the feast of tabernacles alone a total of 73 bullocks, 17 rams, 119 lambs and 10 goats were offered (Numbers 29:12-40). This was in addition to all their regular sacrifices. The tabernacle was as much a carnage house as it was a place of beauty.

The Old Testament sacrifices have ended. They have ended because the blood of bulls and goats could never, in and of themselves, take away sin (Hebrews 10:1-4). They were simply shadows of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The certainty that His blood would be shed allowed God to grant forgiveness when animal sacrifices were offered. His blood atones for all sin; those to be committed after Calvary and all those committed before Calvary (Hebrews 9:15).

Old Testament sacrifices may have ended but sacrifices and the principles of sacrifice have not. Let’s notice a few things that have not changed about sacrifices.

They Are To Be The Best.

God deserves the best and has asked for the best. He always said that they were to be “without blemish” (Numbers 28:3).

This would mean that the offering was truly a sacrifice. Many of the Israelites made their living in caring for sheep. Imagine the sacrifice it would have been to take the finest looking lamb you had and offer it to God. It’s the one that would have brought the finest amount of money at the sale.

Israelites who lost sight of the grandeur of God tried to offer without sacrificing. Imagine a

man who needs to offer a sacrifice to God but doesn't want it to hurt at all. He goes to his fields and looks for the one that has had the nasty cough for months or the one whose back left leg has been dangling since the wolf tore into it. Those certainly will not sell very well, so he offers it to God. It is a pathetic sight to see such a worshiper but that is exactly what many of the Israelites did. God despised it. "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is my honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence? Says the Lord of hosts to you priests who despise my name. Yet you say, 'In what manner have we despised your name?' You offer defiled food on My altar. But you say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the Lord is contemptible.' 'And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and the sick, is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?' Says the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 1:6-8).

God still desires the very best. Here is a good time for us to ask ourselves if the Lord is getting sacrifices from us that demonstrate sacrifice on our part or if He is simply getting the "left-overs" after we have feasted on the rest ourselves. Jesus praised the poor widow because she gave only two mites (Luke 21:1-4). It may not have seemed like much to the rich who were skimming off the top with no pain at all but Jesus knew it was her best. It was all she had. It was indeed a sacrifice!!

It Is To Be Continual.

Sacrifices were continual under the Old Testament. In Numbers 28:3 the Israelites were to offer "day by day". Each day, morning and evening, a lamb was offered.

Our sacrifices are also to be continual. "Therefore by Him, let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name" (Hebrews 13:15). A day is to never pass without it being a day of sacrifice. Just as the Old Testament priest offered daily, we as priests also offer daily.

Our bodies are given daily in serving Him. "I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1).

We will never out give God. His blessings are numberless. God gives to us daily. Doesn't He deserve the same from us?

It Is To Be From The Heart.

It is possible for a person to offer the best and to offer daily but not do it from the heart. Many of the Israelites lost their heart for serving God. They said, "Oh, what a weariness it is" (Malachi 1:13).

God simply will not accept our worship or our offerings if our hearts are far from Him (Mt. 15:8). Notice how that in our giving, God is quick to say, "So, let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). That has not changed from the Old Testament (Exodus 25:2).

How much better it would be if our hearts were so filled with gratitude toward God that He would be forced to say, "Hold up!! That's enough". He said that once to Israel. "The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the Lord commanded us to do" (Exodus 36:5). Now that's it!!

Are we giving the best, continually, from the heart?

-via *The Noble Searcher*; Gardendale, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Mary Best* continues at home, but is going to Columbia each morning for her treatments ... *Hubert Goode* returned to the doctor this week and had an additional stint implanted in his esophagus ... *Myrtie Williams* continues to suffer at home from her compression fracture in her back from a fall recently... *Jean Ray* has been sick this past week and has not been able to

be out...**Billy Haraway** continues his treatments, but has been able to be at services on Sunday...**Lisa Word** was 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**, 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**, is staying with family.

SYMPATHIES: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Eddie Hammond and all the family** in the passing of Eddie's father, **Berl Hammond**, this past Tuesday morning. The funeral was Thursday... We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Vickie Robbins and all the family** in the passing of Vickie's brother, **Tommy Ridgeway**, this past Monday in an automobile accident. His funeral was Friday... Also, we extend our deepest sympathy to **Cindy Pressnell and Billy Haraway and all the family** in the passing of Cindy's aunt and Billy cousin, **Corinne Carter**, this past Tuesday afternoon. Her funeral was Friday morning.

OUT OF TOWN: **The McConnells:** *James Albert and Freda* are away this weekend in the mountains on vacation... **The Whites:** *Larry and Betty* are back home after being away last week on vacation... **Claus Martel** has been out of town in Kentucky and Texas with his work.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the Week of July 27th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 90
 Morning Worship 113
 Evening Worship 80

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 75

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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 Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
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