

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, October 10th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Isaiah 35:1-10)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... Claus Martel

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Jim Phillips
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jimmy Glass
Assisting Mark McIntyre
Serving Rodney McCrary
..... James McConnell
..... Stephen Stewart
..... Curtis Mosley
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (Isaiah 36:1-10)
..... Eddie Hammond
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
..... Jimmy Glass
..... Mark McIntyre
Closing Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Volume XI

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No. 40

Rejection of The World

Randy Harshbarger

Many times Jesus exhorted His followers to reject the world in which they lived. "And he said unto all, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). The way to heaven is through the cross; the way of the cross is the way of death. When we take up our crosses, we are saying that we are dead to the world with its temptations, setbacks, disappointments, and problems. Do these things befall us? Yes, but when our concentration is focused on Christ, then our greater desire is to die to those things that can defeat us spiritually. And we must die daily to self, this is perhaps the greatest challenge of all.

We are not surprised when Jesus tells us that the values of this world are secondary. His Sermon on the Mount extols the virtue of and need for heavenly, spiritual values. Those are the treasures that cannot be taken from us (Matthew 6:20ff). In Jesus' teaching about the kingdom, He said: "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a merchant seeking goodly pearls: and having found one pearl of great price, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it." No labor was too great, no price was too large to pay, in order to acquire the treasures the merchant found. Disciples of the kingdom seek to understand and do what Jesus said (Matthew 13:45). Do we sometimes grow discouraged? Are we tempted to embrace the wrong kind of treasure? Are our attachments to this world sometimes too strong? Yes! But Jesus says: "Seek me first, and my kingdom"

New Testament teaching about this world and the tension between the now and the not yet echoes our Lord's teaching. In Romans chapter eight, the entire creation is personified as it cries out for deliverance. Because of sin it is as if the entire earth longs for deliverance. Ultimately, Paul says that Christians, children of God,

will be delivered from this world. And it is the constant pressure of this world that sets upon us, causing us to disdain the things that will defeat us spiritually. Yes, it is the rejection of this world that keeps our focus on the things of Christ.

The victims of unjust persecution cried for deliverance. “And they cried with a great voice, saying, How long, O Master, the holy and true, does thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?” (Revelation 6: 10). Had the Lord forgotten about these godly saints who were undergoing a severe trial of faith? No! They and their cause were ultimately vindicated. But it is the tension between this world and the world to come that caused them to eagerly anticipate the time when the Lord would make all things right.

We are separate from this world. Yet, we remain in this world. But let us not make friends with this world. Life is a great blessing; let us use it to honor the Lord. But let us never become too comfortable in a world that will finally pass away.

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



Influence

Chuck Durham

There is an old adage which says, “Actions speak louder than words.” And that is the truth. We call it “influence.” The power one possesses to sway other people along certain courses of action because of his wealth, position, or ability. Influence, either for good or evil, follows in the wake of one’s actions and not of what one says he will do or not do. One of the first places I fully came to be aware of this power was in the parent-child relationship. I would see parents warning their

children not to smoke. In between their admonitions that smoking caused halitosis, hacking coughs, and lung cancer would be a puff from a cigarette and this feeble rebuke, “Now, don’t do as I do but do as I tell you to do.” Given man’s propensity toward evil, I knew how far that advice went for the betterment of mankind.

What makes influence such a powerful tool is the fact that each of us possess it. There are people who watch us, who admire something about us, who imitate our actions. If put to its proper use, influence can be a great means of leading someone to obey Christ. Listen to Jesus, “For I have given you an example, that ye also should do as I have done to you” (John 13:15). Jesus spoke of actions. Paul wrote, “Be ye imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). His apostle wrote of deeds. Peter said, “For hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow his steps” (1 Peter 2:21). To follow anyone’s footsteps, we must walk. The word “example” as used by Peter literally means “an under-writing.” It refers to teaching children the alphabet. A copy of the letters of the alphabet would be distributed to each child. They would write underneath the example of the letter as it should be drawn, trying to reproduce it as closely as possible. We must pattern our lives after Jesus. We must do our best to live as he lived, “to be holy as He is holy.” Thus, “by their fruits ye shall know them.”

Influence begins with the heart. Only as we keep the seat of our intellect, emotions, and will unmixed with evil, can we expect to wield the silent power of influence for good. Solomon wrote, “Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23). In the ASV, “with all diligence” is footnoted “above all that thou guardest.” We must see the necessity of keeping our heart right with God. We must see the danger in letting our thoughts aimlessly wander from sin to sin, of toying with its pleasures in our mind, of calculating our pursuit of it. We must heed the Lord, who was tempted like we are

tempted, yet without sin, for He said, "For from within, out of the heart of men, evil thoughts proceed, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, covetings, wickednesses, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, railing, pride, foolishness: all these evil things proceed from within and defile the man" (Mark 7:21-23).

Influence is the result of doing good. If influence is sought for its own sake, then it is a matter of selfish pride and not an attempt to glorify God. The Pharisees were guilty of seeking their own glory above the glory of the Father. They loved to spread their influence for the sake of spreading their influence (cf. Matthew 6:1-5). Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth... Ye are the light of the world... so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:13, 14, 16). The reason we do good works and influence others to do good works is not "to be seen of men." Rather, that being seen, others may understand that we serve God to glorify Him. We are the light of the world. We must penetrate the evil world and show forth the excellencies of Christ as surely as the light of a burning star pierces the darkness of night. We must preserve from corruption by giving life to people who are spiritually dying as surely as salt gives protection to meat that would decay and become rancid without it (cf. Philippians 2:15, 16).

And above all things we must be steadfast, unmovable, constant in our endeavor to serve God. We cannot fellowship evil and expect our influence to be good. We must not fraternize the enemy. Our teachings and deeds must be consistent. Surely we can see this in the life of Jesus. "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matthew 12:30).

-via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.

Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Jack Tucker* has been having trouble breathing due to fluid collecting around his heart, but is doing some better... *Willie Ridgeway* is in the ECM hospital following his arteriogram on Wednesday... *Hoyt Hammond* is in the ECM Hospital in Florence with pneumonia... *Mattie Blanche Word* is in Mitchell-Hollings worth for rehabilitation... *Curtis Cooper* spent a day in the hospital in Pulaski this week, but is now at home... *Jean Ray* fell this past week on Tuesday and broke her arm... *Stephen Stewart* was sick this past Wednesday night and unable to be at Bible study... *Jerry Dickey's mother, Pat Dickey*, is in the Florence Comprehensive care for rehabilitation... *Jerry Dickey's father, David Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence following surgery on Sunday... *Helen Stewart's grandson, Adam Stewart*, is needing a kidney transplant... *Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, is in rehabilitation at HealthSouth in Huntsville... *James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell*, is at home... *Kathy Smith's sister-in-law, Sue Gilliam*, is undergoing chemo and radiation treatments... *Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty* is at the Countryside Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg... *Jerry Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, continues at home... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

SINGING: The *River Bend church* in western Lauderdale county has scheduled a singing this Friday, October 15th, at 7:00p.m.

OUT OF TOWN: *Sam Noles* is away in Mississippi visiting with his daughter... *Jerry Dickey* has been working out of town this week.

CONFESSION: *Tisha Thomas* this past week confessed unfaithfulness in her life as a Christian. We appreciate Tisha and the attitude of heart that she has in desiring to please the Lord. May we all

encourage her life as a Christian and she as she will be encouragement to us as well.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Northside church* in Lexington is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Thursday. The services will begin each evening at 7:00 p.m. *Frank Chumley* will be the speaker...The *First Street church* in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *James Ward* will be the speaker...The *Eastside church* in Red Bay is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with *Lonnie Oldag* speaking.

POSEY MEETING: It was my pleasure to be with the *Posey church* in northwestern Franklin county this past week. The meeting went well and it was good to see many people that I have not seen in a while. *Tommy Sherrod* is the preacher there and it was good to become better acquainted with him. I know that you enjoyed hearing *Mark McIntyre* and *Jimmy Glass* preach last Sunday. I appreciate Mark and Jimmy and their willingness to fill in for me while I am away.

RECORDINGS: The sermons that are preached here are available on DVD and CD for those that would like them. Also, if you would like a recording of the congregational singings, they are available as well.

THE RECORD: *For the week of October 3rd*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 102
 Morning Worship 124
 Evening Worship 95

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 75

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
 Monroe Pressnell (256) 232-0780

Deacons

Jimmy Glass (256) 247-0571
 Mark McIntyre (256) 233-1953
 Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
 Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
 Larry White (256) 247-0988
 Brian Word (256) 229-5823

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