

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, November 7th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Claus Martel
Bible Reading (Isaiah 41:1-13)
..... Eddie L. Hammond
Prayer
..... Larry White

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Claus Martel
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Michael Clemmons
Assisting Aric Butler
Serving Rodney McCrary
..... Mike Rogers
..... James McConnell
..... Ethan Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Isaiah 41:14-29)
..... Stephen Stewart
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper
..... Michael Clemmons
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin

Volume XI

November 7, 2004

No. 44

"Be Sober, Be Vigilant"

Daniel Bailey

In 1 Peter 5:8, just after telling Christians that they should humble themselves under the mighty hand of God, the apostle Peter states: *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him steadfast in the faith..."*

The spiritual enemy that Christians face is not an apathetic or passive adversary – the devil is like a roaring lion, aggressive and furious in his malevolence. In 1 John 5:19, the holy apostle warns that "the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one." Satan is battling to sway the very thought and behavior of every person on the earth, most especially those of Christians. The devil seeks to consume the Christian's time, trying to draw our priorities entirely to carnal things; he desires to ensnare our minds, tempting us to focus and meditate on the impure lusts of the flesh and lusts of the eyes, and he is constantly fighting that Christians will use their tongues to lash out in impure speech.

Considering these things, the warning of God through Peter is that children of God must be sober and vigilant. To be sober means to always handle oneself with self-control, not to be swayed or overpowered by any carnal thought or action. Paul expressed this idea in 1 Corinthians 6:12 saying, *"I will not be brought under the power of anything."* The holy apostle certainly was not teaching rebellion against the rule of Christ, but firmly stating that he would let no carnal motivation or influence rule over his body and behavior. Contrastingly, part of being sober means bowing in total obedience, but only to Christ. Paul states in 2 Corinthians 10:5, we must bring *"every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."*

We must also be vigilant, always on the alert and watchful, lest we fall into the devil's snares. This command echoes the words of Christ after finding His precious disciples asleep in Gethsemane: *"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation."* Children of God must not let the devil catch them sleeping. Satan never sleeps; he roams about constantly searching for the souls to drag into the fiery punishment that awaits him. He is the great deceiver, even transforming himself into an angel of light (John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:14). In no uncertain terms we are warned: we must be more vigilant than our enemy. We must guard every word we speak, every mediation of our hearts, every action we make, both while alone as well as before the world. As stated in 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, "Watch, stand fast in the

faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do done with love."

Satan cannot overpower us – James 4:7 says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." But to resist the devil takes action and effort: we must humble ourselves before God, always being sober and vigilant, standing steadfast in the faith. If we remain sober and in control we will find the way of escape God provides with every temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13). Yet, all temptations are not blatant and calculable – Satan will lull us to sleep if he can, and take advantage of any lackadaisicalness. "Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thessalonians 5:6)

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama.



"That Is The Kind of Love I Want In My Life"

Dennis Carrow

The following story entitled "True Love" was e-mailed to me. There was no author given, but it is one of those stories that touch the emotion very deeply. And, while you will find this story moving, let us truly consider what love is. May each of us discover that true emotion within love is the result of an intellectual decision we make.

I was just opening our office around 8:30 a.m. when a gentleman, in his 80's, arrived to have sutures (stitches) removed from his thumb. He stated that he was in a hurry as he had an appointment at 9 a.m. I took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see him.

I saw him looking at his watch and decided, since I was not busy with another patient, I would

evaluate his wound. On exam it was well healed, so I talked to one of the doctors, got the needed supplies to remove his sutures and redress his wound. While taking care of his wound, we began to engage in conversation. I asked him if he had a doctor's appointment this morning, as he was in such a hurry. The gentleman told me no, that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife. I then inquired as to her health. He told me that she had been there for a while and that she was a victim of Alzheimer's.

As we talked, and I finished dressing his wound, I asked if she would be worried if he was a bit late. He replied that she no longer knew who he was, that she had not recognized him in five years now. I was surprised, and asked him. "And you're still going every morning, even though she

doesn't know who you are?" He smiled as he patted my hand and said.. "She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is." I had to hold back tears as he left.

I had goose bumps on my arm, and thought, "That is the kind of love I want in my life."

True love is neither physical, nor romantic. True love is an acceptance of all that is, has been, will be, and will not be. Jesus identifies love in this manner: "*If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love*" (John 15:10).

The apostle John, by means of the Holy Spirit continues, *Let us love one another for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son in the world, that we might live through Him*" (1 John 4:7-9).

These passages enlighten us to the reality that love is a choice. As God predetermined He would extend to us His love and mercy through the sacrifice of His Son, we too intellectually *choose* to love. The result of this choice is the foundation for any relationship. Unfortunately, many base their love on an emotional sensation rather than on the decision to follow the word of God. The *result* of the proper decision is indeed emotional, but may each of us solemnly consider the basis of our fellowship with Christ and His disciples. It is an intellectual decision predetermined in our minds and based solely upon the word of God, not our feelings.

"No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us" (1 John 4:12). "*If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed*" (John 8:31).

If the love of God is the "kind of love you want in your life," then choose to abide in His word. For it contains all that is, has been, will be, and will not be."

-via *What Is Truth*; Little Rock, Arkansas



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Angie McCrary's father, Buford Shook*, is in the ECM hospital following surgery to amputate the lower part of his leg on Friday... *Willie Ridgeway* is now at home following his stay in the ECM hospital in Florence... *Roger Mosley's father, T. W. Mosley*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence ...*Monroe Pressnell's brother-in-law, Leamon Britton*, is at home and continues his recovering from a recent stroke ... *Helen Trousdale's sister, Margaret Neal Newton*, is at home and not doing well at all ...*Helen Stewart's grandson, Adam Stewart*, is at home now, but needing a kidney transplant ...*Ashley Thomas* has been sick this past week with a rash and has been unable to be with us ...*Amber Hammond* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Curtis Cooper* is continuing his radiation treatments in Columbia ...Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* 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 ...**James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell**, continues at home... **Jerry Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson**, continues at home ... **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

GOSPEL MEETING: The **West Rogersville church** in Rogersville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with **Gary Patton** preaching. They will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. and Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m....The **Helton Drive church** in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with **Steve Smith** preaching. Services will begin Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m....The **Elkton church** in Elkton, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. with **Bob Waldron** preaching...The **Isbell church** in Russellville is beginning a meeting today with **Frank Rickey** preaching.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight is the night for Communication group one to meet. If you are in group one remember to meet with your group this evening after our service.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We are happy to announce that **John and Virginia Lovell** have expressed their desire to be a part of the work here at Anderson. We are glad to have them and look forward to working with them here.

BUSINESS MEETING: The elders have scheduled a business meeting for all the men of the church next Sunday afternoon at 4:30.

THE RECORD: *For the week of October 31st*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 93
 Morning Worship 120
 Evening Worship 80

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 91

Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00.

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
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