

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, December 19th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Isaiah 49:8-21)
..... Eddie L. Hammond
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
Presiding Monroe Pressnell
Assisting Mark McIntyre
Serving Curtis Mosley
..... Jim Phillips
..... Mark McCrary
..... Rodney McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading ... (Isaia:h 49:22-26)
..... Mike Rogers
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
..... Monroe Pressnell
..... Mark McIntyre
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Word

Volume XI

December 19, 2004

No. 50

"You Better Watch Out"

Dee Bowman

It didn't take any time at all to know where that came from, did it? If you grew up in this country and know anything about the season of the year we call "Christmas," you know that lyric by heart. Gene Autry wrote it. Right? Well, sort of.

I was thinking about that the other night and I thought what kind of significance there is to that enjoinder, not just at Christmas time, but all year long. In fact, all life long. "You better watch out!" Good advice.

Let me take you to the Bible to look at some of the imperatives assigned there and the reasons for them.

First one that comes to mind is in 1 Peter 5:8. "Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." The word vigilant here is a Greek word which means "be watchful," or "be on guard." What it says is "you better watch out." The advice is as needed today as it was before Peter's pen dried from having written it. The devil is still as active as ever, still has his clever ways, is still as wiley as in the first record we have of him in the garden with mother Eve. He never sleeps and he only retires from the battle long enough to develop some new strategy and attack with a renewed ferocity. So, at the very beginning, it's necessary that we recognize him as the enemy and be watching for him. You better watch out.

I'll tell you how clever he is. He can even disguise himself as "an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). Can you believe that? He can make himself seem to be someone who is a messenger of good stuff.

Think about that. That's how clever he is. Now, that means that we have to be especially watchful, because he can deceive us and lead us somewhere we ought not go, all the while making us feel like it's good to go there.

Need I remind you, too, that vigilance is a planned activity? You have to be aware of his various disguises and be able to recognize his different kinds of appeals and be ready to do something about it. The best way I know to do that is to have a strong connection to the word of God. "But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, and be ready always to give an answer..." (1 Peter 3:15). When you apply His word to anything or anybody, it reveals the real person or the real thing. It contains both descriptions of the enemy and plans for overcoming his various ploys.

And vigilance requires consistent alertness; there's no time to relax, no time when you can look away or neglect to note his whereabouts. Few people surrender to the enemy; mostly, they are captured because of neglect. They just aren't looking, so they don't see him coming.

Elders are special watchmen. Having warned the Elders of impending disaster from men "who shall arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them," Paul said to the Ephesian elders, "Therefore watch..." (Acts 20:31). Elders are said to be those who "watch for our souls" (Hebrews 13:17). Their two primary responsibilities are to: 1) tend the flock, and 2) watch for their souls. They should receive our sincere appreciation for such diligence and care for our eternal welfare.

Paul told the Corinthians, "watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit ye like men" (1 Corinthians 16:13). It seems to me that there is a sequence in this warning. By that, I mean that the first results in the second, the second in the third. If we begin by watching (and that begins, as we said, with a close connection to the word of God,) then, by faith, we can stand fast when the time comes. Then, because of both those things, we will be disinclined to give up easily; in fact, we just won't

quit. That's how men quit. They don't.

"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thessalonians 5:6). There is no time when we can let down our guard. We dare not sleep, lest we be found vulnerable and fall—and not only fall ourselves, but allow the enemy to penetrate our ranks so that others fall as well. Paul concludes, "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation" (1 Thessalonians 5:8). It's not enough to just sort of look around, there has to be a deliberate seriousness about the matter at hand. All that is part of being a watchman.

In Matthew 25:13, after having painted a disturbing picture of the coming judgment, and warned us of its inevitability and individuality, Jesus concludes by saying, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." The vigilance, brethren, must be continual. There can be no letting down, no lapsing into indifference, no apathy, no inattention. We dare not forget the seriousness of watching cautiously; our eternal destiny that is at stake.

And so, we better,

Watch where we're going.

Watch who we're with.

Watch what we say and how we say it.

Watch our priorities.

Watch our attitudes.

I suppose I could sum all this up by saying, "You better watch out!" Me, too.

-via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Faith and The Bible ... In A Movie?

David Posey

I have always been very reluctant to recommend a movie to my Christian brothers and sisters. In the first place, I don't watch very many; in the second place, a quick look at ScreenIt.com tells me there are few that are worthy of a Christian's time.

But, like it or not, motion pictures are a part of our culture and Christians, like everyone else, watch their share. And, though it may border on blasphemy to some brothers who wouldn't be caught dead in a theater, there are times when Hollywood surprises us and offers something worthwhile.

Of course, there are the (mostly) harmless G-rated animated films – we've seen several of those since the grandkids came along, and most are hilarious and "cute." But now and then, even a film aimed at older folks succeeds in entertaining, and even touching the heart, without creating a dubious moral climate in the process.

It's rare, but it happens. Several years ago, I found myself recommending a movie entitled "Shadowlands," which tastefully told a story about the love of C.S. Lewis' life – Joy Davidson – and her death. Just this week, I saw a film which affected me in a similar way, although for different reasons. "Gods and Generals" is a Civil War saga that tells about the beginnings of that sorrowful period of American history. The movie focuses, primarily, on the life of Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, who was a pivotal figure in the early part of the war. He was responsible, perhaps equally with Robert E. Lee, for the great success of the confederate forces in the first couple of years.

The movie has some pretty violent battle scenes and paints no pretty picture of war; just the opposite. That's not unique, but what is very

different from anything we've seen out of Hollywood is the prominent place that faith plays in the minds of all the major figures. References to the Bible are frequent – unbelievably so, considering this is a Ted Turner Pictures production. You may remember Ted; he's the one who called Christians "losers" a few years ago. Yet, to a man, the heroes in the movie are men and women who love God and conversant with scripture. The phrase, "if it be God's will" is uttered umpteen times during the film.

I would certainly argue with some of the theology. And there are doctrinal and theological ironies that need to be explored. For example, Jackson can quote scripture in one breath and yet instruct his soldiers to kill every last Yankee they see in the next. The actor who plays Jackson in the film, Stephen Lang, says Jackson was a "Old Testament warrior with a New Testament theology."

Yankee Joshua Chamberlain, the Medal of Honor recipient for his heroics at Gettysburg, raises the question of how those who fight so valiantly for their freedom (the Confederacy) could support an institution which denied freedom to others (slavery). Good question.

But this movie portrays real faith, played out in real life. And this movie, unlike any I have seen in my memory, not only prompts us to ask some good questions but strongly suggests that the answers are in God's word. All the major players here, from Robert E. Lee to Jackson to Chamberlain, get their perspective from scripture and seem to leave the end result to God. That may account for its poor reviews by those who criticize for a living. But I wish there were more "poor" movies like this one.

-via *The Folsom View*, Folsom, California.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Angie McCrary's father, Buford Shook*, continues in rehabilitation at Glenwood in Florence... *Willie Ridgeway* continues at

home ... **Cindy Pressnell** had hernia surgery in Decatur on Friday morning... **Sadie & Luke McIntyre** have both been sick, were unable to be at Bible study Wednesday... **Ronnie Phillips** was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday ... **Myrtie Williams** is at home ... **Cheyene Grif-fin** has been sick this past week ... **Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell,** is now home from the hospital after spending nearly two weeks in Huntsville... **Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson,** is taking oral chemo, but has been experiencing problems with the thickness of her blood... **Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer,** is at home, but is continuing to take kidney dialysis ... **Helen Stewart's grandson, Adam Stewart,** is at home now, but is awaiting a kidney transplant ... **Curtis Cooper** has begun taking his chemo treatments ... **Mattie Blanche Word** is at home... **Kathy Smith's sister-in-law, Sue Gilliam,** has finished her chemo and radiation treatments... **Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty** is in 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.

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

OUT OF TOWN: **Corey Goode** has been out of town with his for work... **The Coxes: Kerry, Tyler, Hunter and I** are out of town today.

THE RECORD: *For the week of December 12th*

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 102
- Morning Worship 131
- Evening Worship 90

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 72

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
- Brian Word (256) 229-5823

Evangelist & Editor

- David A. Cox (256) 247-1049
- Office-(256) 247-5539
- E-mail address: dacoxx@hiwaay.net

U.S. Postage
Paid
Bulk Rate
Anderson, Alabama
Non-Profit
Permit #6

Anderson church of Christ
P.O. Box 66
Anderson, Alabama 35610

Return Service Requested